

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1850.

No. 1161.

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The Life of Torquato Tasso. By the Rev. R. Milman. Colburn.

THE life of Tasso will always claim an interest of its own, beyond that which is due to all whose genius has won them lasting remembrance. In the harsh contrast which it shows between the misfortunes of the man and the glory of the poet, there lies one of the deepest marks of a certain tragic element in human destiny,—the appearance of which, always irresistible in its appeal to the feelings of men, is especially impressive when the victim is found among the foremost of our species. In contemplating this mournful side of Tasso's history, the emotion is heightened by the mystery in which the cause of his misfortunes is enveloped. It lies, now amidst glimpses of the fondest springs of human sorrow, now under shadows of the direst affliction that can befall a gifted mind,—whether in strife with a selfish world and a cruel patron, or biased by accidents of position and peculiarities of character: an enigma, inviting many suggestions, yielding to a certain point in various directions,—but destined for ever to evade any perfect and final solution. Thus, although a modern biographer can now add little to the ascertained facts of Tasso's story, in the attempt to trace out and explain its dubious passages there is still, and for ever will be, an unlimited scope for reflection, conjecture, and sympathy.

The writer of the present memoir—who, we may observe, is not to be confounded with the author of 'The Fall of Jerusalem'—began his work, as the preface states, under an impression that it would be the first complete English biography of the poet. Of the existence of Dr. Black's careful performance, we learn, not without surprise, that Mr. Milman "was not aware when he first completed his own account." His design, however, was not interrupted by the discovery of what had been done by that writer: whose view of some main points of Tasso's history—following Serassi's—Mr. Milman thinks erroneous; and with reason, as far as the more recent light thrown on the subject by Rosini has discredited the attempt to show that the poet's alleged love for Leonora d'Este had no real existence, and was no cause of his ill-treatment by Alfonso. Mr. Milman, however, goes further than the last Italian authority; and has framed, on the basis of facts ascertained by him, a theory of his own, which he conceives sufficient to explain all the obscurities in Tasso's story. This he undertakes to display with the effect of a more complete vindication of the poet's character than has heretofore been given; and he adds to this a hint of certain instructive results to be gained from the survey,—which appear rather as an after-thought of the Divine than as obviously suggested to the literary biographer. The moral of the tale, as we find it introduced in certain places, is not, indeed, so much a visible result of the narrative as a kind of arbitrary appendage to it.

The first thing which we observe at the outset of this essay is, that the author declines the task of portraying Tasso in his character of a poet, —and confines himself mainly to the course of his personal history. By this restriction Mr. Milman expressly renounces all claim to the merit of composing a complete biography; since the works that made his hero immortal are as much a part of his existence as the events that embittered or brightened his daily life. To the latter, at all events, we are confined on the present occasion: the fruits of his poetical genius

being only noticed where they are thought to render his personal adventures or feelings intelligible,—all detailed or even general criticism of his chief performances being, as we have said, avoided. This of course gives a certain tone of defect to the memoir. Those whom it may teach to feel a new interest in the poet, by pursuing his footsteps as a man, will have to seek elsewhere a critical account of his productions, with little more than the names of which these pages will have made them acquainted.

Where, as in Tasso's case, the main incidents of the story have long been fixed, the value of a performance thus limited to a part only of its due proportions will wholly depend on the clearness with which the known facts are set forth, or illustrated by well-chosen accessories—on the power wherewith their general result is thrown into a masterly and consistent picture,—and on the judgment which is applied to the explanation of the obscure features of the story. As regards the first of these requisites, we cannot highly praise Mr. Milman's workmanship. He does not pursue the chief thread of his story with so much skill as to keep it in view at all times as the principal object; and the details which he has compiled or imagined as illustrative of the times and position of the poet rather interrupt the view of his career than heighten its effect. The incidents of Tasso's story are carefully gathered; but they are given in an indigested manner, and without the just proportions and lively effect which would prove that the author had himself gained from these details a complete view of his subject. His manner of composition is unequal: now somewhat abrupt, meagre and conversational—now profuse and florid. Nor is it in either style quite free from inaccuracies of diction, and turns of expression that are scarcely consistent with elegant writing. From time to time the reader is invited to pause while a survey is taken of the poet's character and circumstances. But the view afforded on these occasions is composed chiefly of an enumeration of several virtues and defects, set down in a kind of inventory, and summed up with a certain tone of the pulpit which does not very well harmonize with the general tenor of the narrative. The figure of Tasso, in his variable and troubled existence and strangely mingled character, appears but dimly through the rhetoric which enlarges on his dispositions, or the less ambitious prose describing his changes, wanderings and sorrows. The effort, in short, to say something pathetic, picturesque or striking on the various passages of the history is more apparent than its success in bringing before us a lively representation of its ill-starred hero.

An extract or two will afford a pretty fair idea of the ornamental passages of the memoir. The explanation of Alfonso's severity to the poet—to which we shall presently advert further—is introduced with this florid preamble.—

"There is a room in Venice containing a curious and fearful collection. There are the rack, the horse, the boot, the wheel, the cord, the strangling-chair, arm-screws and thumb-screws, and many other contrivances for stretching or compressing, dislocating or crushing the poor human body and its several members. There are other more ingenious, and almost more terrible, because more treacherous instruments; boxes, and vessels, and bottles, once full of strange and subtle, rapid or slow poisons; scent-boxes from which leaped a knife to gash the fair cheek, or split the beautiful nostrils, or otherwise mutilate the lovely face, as it bent over them to inhale the perfume; jewel-cases, from which some long, sharp needle should start, or some pungent mixture, or detonating powder should be suddenly cast to extinguish the bright eye, hastening to inspect her wedding ornaments or her lover's offering; necklaces which should

contract round the white neck; bracelets which should run into the snowy arm; helmets, breast-plates, gauntlets, secret pistols which should perform the same offices to the warriors of the age; implements of dreadful ingenuity, which conjure up dark scenes of horrible cruelty and subtle remorseless vengeance, not to speak of other guilt, too often acted in that time and country. Amidst these ingenious but abominable treasures of tyranny, whether royal, oligarchical or democratical, I doubt if Alfonso could have selected a more subtle and tremendous instrument of torture and revenge than that which he choose for the punishment of Tasso. He resolved to accuse him of madness; to wring from him first, if possible, an acknowledgment of his offence, and if that failed, a confession of madness; thus saving his honour in all points, he would have him at his mercy, to deal with him as he pleased. He appears, however, first of all to have done all he could to drive him really out of his senses."

The sudden apparition of Tasso at Sorrento is thus described.—

"Cornelia Sersale, Tasso's sister, a widow now, was sitting in her chamber in Sorrento, with her babies slumbering near her, her two elder boys having gone out to their studies. She was looking over the blue gulf toward the island, floating softly on the horizon in the warm purple haze of summer. The airs through the open window brought in the rich perfume of the orange flowers, the gentle murmur of the waters gurgling in the caverned bases of the rocks, or the faint songs of the birds dying down in the groves beneath the oppressive heat. She was mourning perhaps over her lost husband, or anxiously musing on the perils of her brother. A man, dressed in shepherd's clothes, asks admission to her presence, and gives her letters as from Torquato, describing his situation and danger, in lamentable terms. She questions the messenger, who confirms the painful tidings, and adds other heightening circumstances to the statement. Cornelia listens in tears, and at last, overcome by the sorrowful announcement, faints away. On her recovery, Tasso—for it was he—having been thus satisfied of her great affection, began to comfort her, and by degrees made himself known; excusing the artifice which he had used, and the pain which he had given her, by his fear of startling and alarming her by his sudden appearance, and by the necessity of concealing his arrival from every one."

A more favourable specimen of the same manner precedes the account of the poet's final liberation from the Hospital at Ferrara.—

"Ferrara is now a dark, heavy, half-deserted looking city, with broad streets, and great black palaces that resemble fortresses. They have lowering portcullised gateways under high dingy towers, clamped and nailed gates, barred and grated windows. The Po, when not dry, rolls sluggishly by the walls in a brown muddy flood. The streets all have much resemblance to one another, a dull, still, sombre look. The Hospital of Santa Anna stands in the middle of the town. There is nothing remarkable about it except its reputation. It is a sad dingy-looking building. Its windows, grated and barred, like the rest, look out into one of those silent and desolate streets. The gratings and bars are at present worn and broken. In A.D. 1586, the streets were more thronged and noisy, and the gratings and bars were entire. At one of these windows, a face, handsome, but extremely sad, rather past middle life, but haggard beyond its age; the hair, though partially white, falling down in delicate curls from the high and somewhat wrinkled forehead; the cheeks, pale and ghastly, as of one just recovering from severe illness; thin lips anxiously parted from one another, and showing the white teeth set; eyes preternaturally bright, and fixed with an intense eager gaze down the street; might be seen day after day through the bars, re-appearing, like a pale phantom every morning; planted there during the long June day, and lost in the twilight at last without withdrawing from the town. Not a passer-by but paused, and turned to take a hurried glance at the window, and then swept rapidly on, as if afraid of observation. Tasso was looking from his prison window in heart-rending anxiety for the announcement of his release."



This, it will be seen, is rather an ambitious manner of writing—which will perhaps be more strongly felt in going through the whole work, from its contrast with passages of a style rather vernacular than elegant or correct. We shall not transcribe any of the ungraceful phrases that were marked as we read on: but it must be observed that they occur oftener than could be wished in a performance which attempts at intervals to rise from the proper tone of biography to the heightened colouring of romance.

We now turn to the explanatory theory of Tasso's misfortunes:—on the merits of which it will appear, from what has been already said, that the worth of these volumes must depend.

Mr. Milman has framed a theory of the cause of the poet's imprisonment as an alleged maniac, which he thinks will solve all the difficulties attached to this cardinal point of his destiny. It rejects the hypothesis of Serassi,—whom Rosini has, indeed, sufficiently convicted of wresting the facts known to him to a conclusion designed to please his patrons of the Este family; in addition to which, he has further proved his case by the MSS. brought to light since the time of the Abbé. Mr. Milman proceeds on the grounds of Rosini,—but goes somewhat further than that author in theorizing on Tasso's love for Leonora. As to the share which it had in determining his imprisonment, it must be remarked that the authentic proof of this is not so entirely new to English readers as Mr. Milman seems to imagine. The poems found by Mai among the Falconieri MSS., and published at Rome in 1827—as well as the explanation of others adduced by Rosini in his 'Essay on the Love of Tasso,' (Pisa, 1832),—have already been sufficiently noticed in more than one English publication; and a very full estimate of their weight will be found in the able article 'Tasso,' in Knight's Penny Cyclopædia, (1842). Among those who take an interest in the subject, there is now, we apprehend, little difference of opinion as to the bearing of the evidence thus afforded,—or as to the probability of the discovery by Alfonso of the pieces in question having been the first cause of his rigour towards the poet, who had dared to express with scarcely decent warmth his passion for the princess. On this position Mr. Milman builds a suggestion of his own, of an equal return by Leonora of Tasso's love,—in support of which he offers no proof of the slightest value; while the conjecture, we may add, is contradicted by all that is certainly known of the temper and conduct of that princess,—who was, as must be remembered, full nine years older than Tasso, and at the time when his incarceration took place had reached the mature age of forty!

The scheme of Alfonso's revenge on this double amour, as set forth by Mr. Milman, seems to exact more than either the facts or the probabilities of the case will bear. He has no doubt of the entire sanity of Tasso; and thinks the idea of imputing madness to him was merely a plan of a more exquisite vengeance than simply killing the offender. Now, in order to suppose this, we must first admit the complicity of Leonora to have been proved as well as known to Alfonso—a presumption contradicted by all the certain facts of the case. Then, admitting the offence and its discovery by Alfonso, it may be declared wholly incredible that he could have been satisfied to spare Tasso's life at all; still less that he would have allowed him considerable freedom in his prison, the means of writing to his friends, and of receiving their visits,—and that at length he should have released him from confinement. This is no picture of an Italian vengeance of the 17th century for an outrage such as Mr. Milman imagines; and Alfonso, it is well known, was the last among

Italian princes to have let it escape in this manner. In two notable instances he had taken a far more prompt and bloody revenge; and as he himself says, in the well-known letter quoted by Mr. Milman, "had he desired his life, there would have been no difficulty in taking it" by open or secret violence. The conduct of Alfonso, in short, will not agree with the supposition of any deadly resentment. His behaviour is that of a severe, haughty character offended by one whom he viewed as a dependent; but not that of an Italian prince towards an inferior, known to have sullied the honour of his family.

The more probable view seems to be, that the favours of which Tasso certainly boasts in the lately discovered poems were grossly exaggerated, if not altogether the fictions of a diseased imagination. It is likely enough that some industrious enemy of Tasso's favour brought the pieces in question to Alfonso's knowledge; and that the prince resented their free tone as an insult, without in the least believing the suggestions which they seemed to contain. The kind of displeasure which he thereupon showed to Tasso will pretty well agree with this degree of offence; which, as we know, was afterwards aggravated by the outbreak of the poet's impetuosity in injurious language and loud complaints against the conduct of the prince. Whereupon, the charge of insanity was for the first time severely urged against him.

As to that charge, if we weigh it in connexion with the previous indications that first break out at a very early period of Tasso's career, it is hardly possible to avoid the conclusion that his mind, if not essentially unsound, was, at all events, perpetually hovering near the verge of serious derangement, and apt to be thrown by any excitement into a state wholly ungovernable by reason, and probably requiring some degree of outward restraint. We have not space to exhibit the several proofs on this head which may be collected by a careful examination of the records of his life, and of his own writings, from his nineteenth year, when he suddenly fled from his studies at Bologna in resentment of an affront, whether real or only imagined is not quite certain. We need no other evidence than such as may be gathered from the pages of Mr. Milman's book to prove his temperament strongly marked at all times with tendencies known as pre-dispositions to insanity, if not signs of its presence. His incessant restlessness—prone to suspicions—irritable and jealous pride—are, indeed, strongly insisted on by Mr. Milman; and they are hardly consistent with his notion of Tasso's perfect sanity. We do not see, especially, how he can reconcile to this theory the poet's strange panic—utterly groundless—on the subject of the Inquisition, his fancied conferences with unseen beings, or his returns to Ferrara, in spite of the dissuasions of his well-wishers; which we cannot explain, with Mr. Milman, by the attraction of Leonora's presence, since we find him longing to commit the same folly after his escape from the affliction which he had suffered there, at a time when Leonora herself had been long deceased.

Altogether there are plausible grounds for concluding that Tasso's condition verged so nearly at times to the very edge of madness, that it might give a colour, at least, to Alfonso's proceedings,—even if it did not lead him to count the poet mad in real earnest. The hypothesis of a fatal purpose in the Prince's conduct we must regard, at all events, as quite untenable. He appears to have been unduly irritated by the conduct of one who surely deserved a more kindly and generous treatment of what was certainly an unjustifiable indiscretion. The harsh

mode of Alfonso's displeasure no doubt aggravated any symptoms that may first have given a colour to it:—and he may have wished to punish or repress other aberrations of Tasso's tongue or pen, while pretending to deal with his imputed disease of mind only. But there is no sufficient ground for ascribing to him a scheme—at once diabolical in design and futile in its execution—such as Mr. Milman has engrained on the argument of Rosini.

As the present essay, from the touching interest of its subject, is likely to be extensively read, it is of little consequence that we are unable to proceed to other details of a life, the main incidents of which, indeed, are pretty generally known. The memoir of Bernardo, the poet's father, with which the work begins, will be found an acceptable introduction to the career of his more illustrious son. In this sketch there are some amusing notices of the widely spread family of the Tassi,—and of their long connexion with the royal posts in most of the kingdoms of Europe;—still kept up, we believe, in Austria—unless broken by the late revolution—in the house of Thurn and Taxis.

Not a few extracts are made by Mr. Milman from those of Tasso's sonnets, madrigals, and canzoni which are supposed to contain authentic personal notices of his fortunes or his feelings. The translations of these convey the literal meaning pretty exactly, but make no claim to reproduce the poetical grace of the originals.

No references accompany the text:—an omission which would have been a more serious defect were the work calculated to take a permanent station as a literary performance, as well as to engage the popular notice of the day. The latter its subject, as we have said, will hardly fail to command: for the former, a larger handling of its theme,—a more masterly arrangement of the materials,—greater consistency in the reasoning on matters of fact,—above all, a genial account of the works of the poet,—and, we may add, a style somewhat more chaste and correct than Mr. Milman's—would seem to be indispensable.

Silwood: a Novel. 2 vols. Bentley.

RIGHTLY this novel 'Silwood' to review demands a rounded consequential style, too seldom won by those who write in prose. A tale more solemn we have rarely met. Its very "How d'ye do's" have muffled drum and gong accompaniments,—while its great scenes, measured as music in an opera-air, might be told off by "One, two, three, four, five—At six, kind reader, pause—at seven shed tears—At eight consider weightily—at nine Enjoy the whole-some moral—and at ten (If get to ten thou canst) lay down the tale. And marvel who hath written it!"—In proof, Read a few lines extracted. When was ever Sorrow set forth with more sonority Than in the following paragraph sublime?—

"Yes, wild and loud lamenting may exhaust, and scalding tears burn while they flow down misery's cheek, but there is yet another and a darker source, a deep, a dreadful, and destructive grief, 'tis still, 'tis calm, 'tis silent; but its motionless exterior is the surface of the raging torrents that flow too deep for mortal eye to see. Its tranquil and unruffled state is as the smooth road, over the volcano, beneath which fires of Etna glow; yea, even thus for ever shall it last among the sons of men. Shed tears with those that weep, time shall wipe them away; lament with those that rave in agony, the louder sounds the thunder's roar, even so the sooner shall the tempest end, but when you meet with silent anguish, bend your head: when you hear no complaints, and see no outward signs of grief, oh, know the soul is then on fire, the wounded heart bleeds inwardly, and nought can turn the stream to safer

channels, but He, the source of strength, and power of none shall profit but His, who ruleth all."

And lo! a snatch of simple dialogue!—

"Pray inform me where is Ross?"—"In Italy. I am not aware of his exact locality; but in a few days I expect a letter from him. I will forward any communication of yours to his next address as soon as possible. I assure you, Mr. Silwood, I despaired of finding you, but I called on Mr. Fentum yesterday, whom I had not seen for some time, and by chance he mentioned your name. A few enquiries elicited the fact that you were the object of my futile searches. I came to you as soon as possible, for I was most anxious to redeem my pledge."—"I am as well pleased as yourself," exclaimed Silwood. "How often have I longed to hear of my dear friend, but alas! we missed each other abroad, and since then I had no means of tracing him."

One Gordon, being asked to go abroad, Makes answer thus in high poetic phrase.

"Well, Gordon, won't you come and see me? Of course the student cannot, but you might, there would be an inducement too, for you would meet your sister."—"Oh, no, I prefer England," said Gordon, "the love of my country is my cherished feeling, never will I relinquish it with life! I cannot understand you, or follow you in your rhapsodies on far distant lands. I entertain for my country all the ardour of the ancient days of patriotism and glory, all the enthusiasm of the ages of chivalry. Speak not to me of Lebanon's cedars, or of Ceylon's groves, my thoughts are centered in the land of my birth. Yes, England's simplest spot, where virtue smiles, and mercy reigns, outweighs by far the marble palace of the eastern Sultan. Yes, brighter is it than India's sun ten times, reflected on her diamond thrones."

Let us now descend from the heights of blank verse to the safe and sober levels of work-a-day prose. This done, we have but to say that 'Silwood' might have been put forth expressly to test endurance, and to defy the impatience of those who, when reading a work, are rash enough to desire incidents which move and characters that are more than names. The *dramatis personæ* include Jessie, Julia, Florence, and Tretonia (who dies), Ross, Gordon, Silwood, Mr. Fentum, Mr. Maitland, Mr. Farquhar (who does mischief), and others; but beyond a general idea that these characters are employed in a game at cross-purposes—that everybody is in love with somebody—and that all are dismally rhetorical—we have not been able to gather more from 'Silwood.'

Observations on the Government Scheme of Education, and on School Inspection, &c. By the Rev. R. Dawes, Vicar of King's Somborne, Hants. Groombridge.

At different times we have made mention of the Rev. R. Dawes and his schools at King's Somborne. Another pamphlet from the indefatigable educator is now before us, and requires a more lengthened notice; partly on account of its remarks on the working of the Government plan of education, but also—and more emphatically—on account of the farther information which it brings respecting the result of Mr. Dawes's own experiments. Our readers know somewhat of that history,—making so small a show on paper, yet really so extraordinary and so fitted to shame the indolent and rebuke the desponding about National Education. As it cannot be too well understood, however, let us repeat that the King's Somborne schools have now been open seven years,—that they were commenced, not as schools for gentlemen's, nor even for farmer's, children, but simply as national schools, such as almost any clergyman might open in almost any parish, and certainly in many under more favourable appearances than those which presented themselves at King's Somborne. The turning point of difference—that which made Mr. Dawes's schools effective,

self-paying, and fitted to promote immediately the improvement of a neighbourhood—ultimately perhaps that of a country—is this, that everything taught there has been taught not merely so as to be "sufficient for the poor," but in the best possible manner. "Let me but have a school," Mr. Dawes argued, "far better than the average, and you will see that that school can be maintained." So, indeed, it has proved. The instruction was soon found to be capital; and farmers, and even some few gentlemen, began to think it a pity that plough-boys and milk-maids should run away with all the learning in the neighbourhood. Even from a distance came some, asking if it might not be possible for them, too, to partake of the benefit. Of course, Mr. Dawes was not the man to repel any; but he propounded his own terms,—and to these they seem to have readily assented. Upwards of 120*l.* per annum has been paid in schooling alone for the last two years,—for books upwards of 30*l.* per annum,—while the number of children under education averages two hundred. It is worth while to consider what would have been the result had the common idea of a national village school been realized here, as in most other places. In Mr. Dawes's opinion it would have been as follows.—

"The utmost amount of payment in both girls' and boys' schools would not have exceeded 35*l.* a year. This for master and mistress. Where was the rest to come from? The clergyman's pocket and a small number of annual subscriptions at first perhaps given unwillingly, but gradually becoming less and less until the whole dwindled into a state of things the most unsatisfactory—clergyman dispirited—master and mistress dissatisfied—school neglected—the children of all those immediately above the labourer not sent, but left to pick up scraps of education by fits and starts, a quarter now and a quarter then, and sent to some one who has taken up the business of schoolmaster in the neighbourhood without being in any way fitted for it. * * * The difficulties [adds Mr. Dawes in another place], when you come to consult individual opinion, are infinite; and the only road to success is, by offering a good system and working it out well—not in a niggardly and narrow spirit, for that will be found in the end bad economy, but by providing all necessary school apparatus and efficient teachers, and looking forward to the rise of a more correct opinion of the usefulness of our parish schools. * * * It will be found by all who take an interest in the subject, and watch its progress with those among whom they live, that there are in all parishes, in the lower strata of social life, a sort of Sauroid class, characterized by those habits which a low state of physical comfort induces, who are totally indifferent on the matter of education, and will not be at the trouble of sending their children to school decently clean, or even sending them at all. But it is surely better to try to lift these up, than to allow the school to go down to their level."

It is by looking mainly at this "Sauroid class," we doubt not, that so many of the clergy come to form so low an idea of what a country school should be. The class itself is complimented by having in a great measure the well-being of every other class subordinated to it; whereas it appears to us clearly that our strength would be spent to much better purpose if we worked in some measure irrespective of it. We do not believe that any members of this class who may come to the schools will learn less of the Scriptures because their minds may be opened in other directions; and as to the question of their short allowance of school years, or months, or even weeks making it specially important to fill them the fuller during this brief period with instruction purely religious, we can only say that our mode of action will produce what we desire, or not, far more according to the *spirit* than according to the *material* of our teaching. Years may pass—nay, do pass—over the heads of national

school girls and boys, devoted chiefly and laboriously to this task,—yet in many cases without making any true impression. In an incredibly short time the scholar has forgotten his learning; and when again presenting himself before the clergyman or the master who has formerly thought well of his progress, he is recognized only with mortification and regret. We appeal to the experience of country gentlemen and ladies with melancholy confidence on this point; and we do so, not because we think the case proves anything against education, but only that it renders at least questionable that sort of education which a boy or girl does not immediately connect with his life. In the training given by Mr. Dawes, though but for a very short period, a desire to learn is awakened and the faculties are exercised—not merely rendered recipient.—It does not occur to us at all to question the fact of a low amount of intellectual instruction having been sometimes compensated for by unusual vigour of heart and mind being thrown into the teaching. It is so, we know, occasionally: the school then becomes sometimes a place of actual and permanent reformation,—as is the case, we trust, in some of our ragged schools. But these instances we hold not to be the rule, but the exception.—Those who look most closely into the matter can hardly fail to see that the connecting links between childhood and middle life are best supplied by keeping always in view the alternate process of acquisition and application.

We pass on to another part of Mr. Dawes's 'Observations.' These have a two-fold object: first, to defend generally the scope and plans of the Committee of Council on Education,—secondly, to point out certain errors and suggest improvements. Mr. Dawes thinks the standard of attainment for masters and mistresses marked out by the Council by no means too high, and highly approves of pupil-teachers, &c. But he complains of insufficient inspection, and has a plan of his own for supplying the deficiency in part. He proposes that to every cathedral in England one canonry should be attached, coupled with the duty of inspector of schools in the diocese; that the nomination to such canonry should rest with the Lord President of the Committee of Council on Education, and that such nomination should be approved of by the archbishop of the province in which the particular cathedral was situated. This plan would, in the end, give thirty inspectors, at no expense to the country (for it is not the creation of a new canonry, but only the abolition of a sinecure). The canon-inspectors should, he says, not be allowed to hold livings at the same time, but have the power of vacating the inspectorship in favour of chapter livings, if they pleased. This notion of Mr. Dawes's we content ourselves with merely indicating as a prominent feature of his pamphlet.

More Prose and Verse. By the Corn-Law Rhymer. 2 vols. Vol. I. Fox.

AFTER the character of the mind of Ebenezer Elliott, as displayed in his writings, which we traced when recording the fact of his decease, and the interesting autobiographical fragment which appeared a fortnight since in the *Athenæum*—there remain but few general remarks to be made on the appearance of 'More Prose and Verse.' Welcome is the figure on the binding which announces this as only an instalment of what the poet has left; since there is no sign in these pages betokening age—no line which indicates decay. Neither rhyme nor reason—nor, we may add, wrath—failed the "Corn-Law" poet, to the last. This volume contains as many examples of wild music and genial enthusiasm, and fiery, fierce satire as any of its

predecessors. Like them, it is rich in its passages of local description whose beauty no contemporary could excel—like them, it is forcible in right of philippics and diatribes recalling the rough anger of Cobbett, and not outdone by the vituperations of that most merciful of modern philanthropists who has lately betaken himself to scold in honour of "the beneficent whip" and other such heroic implements of civilization. But—so far as writings bear intrinsic evidence within themselves—with Ebenezer Elliott the storm of political wrath and irony was not false and artificial thunder. Nor was the calm and holy love of Nature, music and beauty with which his ire was alternated, a sickly affectation. The poet shows us a rough, unequal, genuine man,—not a ranter who makes strange noises and uses violent phrases in order to keep a shifting auditory constant around the stage from which he holds forth.

Opening the new volume at its tenth page (our task being little more than to mark extracts) we find at once one of those touches by which every true poet knows how to reconcile Nature and Art. The plea for music in the cottage has rarely been better put—even in that famed anonymous quotation "Verse sweetens toil," which Johnson loved to quote,—and the parentage of which remains unascertained to this day. The following is directed to be sung to the tune of 'Robin Adair.'—

When the pale worker faints,
Making no moan,
Though his unutter'd plaints
Rise to God's throne,
What from despair can keep
Languor too tir'd to sleep,
Sorrow too sad to weep?
Music alone!
Milton, poor, old, and blind,
Fated to bear
Worst woes that scourge his kind,
Did not despair:
What, behind curtains worn,
Where his night knew no morn,
Held up his heart forlorn?
Music was there.
Then, to the hopeless one,
Thus, if you can,
Sing, weary wife or son,
Wasted and wan:
"Though pain our portion be,
High is our destiny:
Born thrall of poverty,
Still thou art Man!"

In writing new words to popular tunes, however, Ebenezer Elliott was not fortunate. Some of his unset lyrics, on the other hand, have the flow of the stream, and a harmony at once as fresh and monotonous as the winds of May when they breathe through the young leafage of the coppice. The following is an example.—

He does well who does his best;
Is he weary? let him rest:
Brothers! I have done my best,
I am weary—let me rest,
After toiling off in vain,
Baffled, yet to struggle fain;
After toiling long, to gain
Little good, with mickle pain;
Let me rest—But lay me low,
Where the hedge-side roses blow;
Where the little daisies grow,
When the winds a-maying go;
Where the footpath rustles plod;
Where the breeze-bow'd poplars nod;
Where the old woods worship God;
Where His pencil paints the sod;
Where the wedded throstle sings;
Where the young bird tries his wings;
Where the wailing plover sings
Near the runlet's rushy springs!
Where, at times, the tempest's roar,
Shaking distant sea and shore,
Still will rave old Barnesdale o'er;
To be heard by me no more!
There, beneath the breezy west,
Tir'd and thankful, let me rest
Like a child, that sleepeth best
On its gentle mother's breast.

And here are verses "written for music" at a friend's request—in which even the quaint provincial names (with their nursery jingle) are so managed as to give a character to the strain, rather than taint it with eccentricity.—

Farwell to Rivlin.

Beautiful River! goldenly shining
Where with the cistus woodbines are twining;
(Birklands around thee, mountains above thee),
Rivlin! wildest! do I not love thee?

Why do I love thee, Heart-breaking River?
Love thee, and leave thee? Leave thee for ever?
Never to see thee, where the storms greet thee!
Never to hear thee, rushing to meet me!

Never to hail thee, joyfully chiming
Beauty in music, Sister of Wiming!
Playfully mingling laughter and sadness,
Ribbledin's Sister, sad in thy gladness.

Why must I leave thee, mournfully sighing
Man is a shadow? River undying!
Dream-like he passeth, cloud-like he wasteth,
Even as a shadow over thee hasteth.

Oh, when thy poet, weary, reposes,
Coffin'd in slander, far from thy roses,
Tell all thy pilgrims, Heart-breaking River!
Tell them I lov'd thee—love thee for ever!

Yes, for the spirit blooms ever vernal;
River of Beauty! love is eternal:
While the rock roaleth, storm-struck and riven,
Safe is the fountain flowing from heav'n.

There wilt thou hail me, joyfully chiming
Beauty in music, Sister of Wiming!
Hom'd with the angels, hasten to greet me,
Glad as the heathflower, glowing to meet thee.

We will give another "song" of a lustrier quality—which attests the truth of its own burden.—

Song.

They say I'm old; because I'm grey,
The aged bard, they now call me;
But grey or green, I boldly say,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

Though sixty years and ten may doom
Tir'd men to rest with worms and me;
With sixty gone, and ten to come,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

My eyes flash flame, my heart is glad,
When poor men shake their sides with glee;
And though they cry, "Come on, Old Lad!"
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

While soars the skylark high and higher,
And bids the mountains wake, to see
How morn can fill my veins with fire,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

Thou brightening cloud, that sail'st afar
Where screams the falcon, wheeling free!
Tell, yonder fading, winking star,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

We have epigrams in this volume:—some, too plainly worded to be discreetly quoted, and these the most forcible. The following is of the gentler sort.—

Though Take's a rogue, and Give's a fool,
Yet Give and Take mean Good for Good!
Thus, Mine for Thine, is blessing doubled;
It's pence for pence, it's cloth for wool,
It's hay for steel—it's work for food!
With two enrich'd, and no one troubled.

There are, also, one or two specimens of task-work, such as indicate that the Corn-Law Rhymer broke himself from time to time—as men of manly mind often love to do—against the difficulties of his craft. The following sonnet is a curiosity; so far as its argument is concerned; leaving triumphant answer open to all "Jacks in Office" and others.—

JONS. In the sound of that rebellious word
There is brave music. Jack, and Jacobin,
Are vulgar terms; law-link'd to shame and sin,
They have a twang of Jack the Hangman's cord:
Yet John hath merit which can well afford
To be call'd Jack's. By life's strange offs and ons!
Glory hath had great dealings with the Johns,
Since history first awak'd where fable anored,
John Cade, John Huss, John Hampden, and John Knox!
Aye, these were names of fellows who had will,
John Wilson's name, far sounded, sounds not ill;
But how unlike John Milton's, or John Locke's!
John Bright, like Locke and Milton, seems paid sloth;
And Johnson might have lik'd to gibbet both.

Ebenezer Elliott, like Southey and Longfellow, tried his hand on the Hexameter;—and, seeing that some interest has been excited by the discussion of the merits and possibilities of this classic metre as clothing British thoughts and fancies—the example left by one whose strength, as he himself has owned, did not lie in his scholarship can hardly fail to interest our readers.—

To Thomas Lister.

Friend, I return your English Hexameters, thanking you for them.
More than forty years since, I constructed such verses,
Choosing a lofty theme, too often worded unsimply.
Even now, I remember one sto'n line of the anthem:

"Thou for ever and ever, God, Omnipotent, reignest!"
Though my verbiage pleas'd me, long ago did it journey
Whither dead things tend. For Homer's world-famous metre
Cannot in English be pleasing. Saxon may write it in

Saxon,
Off! for dactyl and spondee using iambic and trochee,
Pleas'd—and making a boast of his wasted labour and lost time;

But with grace and simplicity none can write it in our tongue,
Though the sturdy Gothic off! runs into it promptly.
As it grandly does in these fine lines from the Bible:

"How art thou fall'n from heav'n, oh, Lucifer, son of the Morn!" and
"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"

Not unpleasing, always, mostly 'tis feeble, yet stilted,
Wanting, in wanting ease, the might which is mightiest, beauty.

Yet can it finely paint the beauty of form and of colour;
Skies, and the sea; or mountains cloud-like in distance, and stealing
Azure from heav'n; or the daisy fresh in the dew-gleam of dawn; or

Young June's bluish-tinted hawthorn, that scatters the snow of its dropp'd flowers
Over the faded cowslip, and roses embrac'd by the woodbine,
Under the mute, or songful, or thunder-whispering forest;
But from man's heart seldom it brings the tear, which the angels,

Knowing not sorrow, might almost in their blessedness envy.
Slow or rapid, sweet or solemn, in Greek and in Latin,
It is in English undignified, loose, and worse than the worst prose.

One advantage it has—it must be utter'd as prose is;
And as it may be wanted, if only as changes are wanted,
I subjoin the rule for its fitting or modern construction:
Every line must consist of six feet, dactyls and spondee,
Dactyls and trochees, or dactyls and both: A dactyl the fifth foot

Must be; a spondee or trochee the sixth: Each line must contain not
More than sixteen syllables, and not fewer than thirteen.

A half century of sonnets, written apparently as a current record of thoughts, fantasies, and events in 1848, and fantastically entitled "The Year of Seeds," contains many fine and nervous thoughts and beautiful images,—but few examples of that terse language, that closeness of structure, that completeness without superfluity, wanting which there is no salvation for the Sonnet. The political examples are the least felicitous;—the descriptive and meditative ones are better. Take the following.—

Rivers are torrents, vales and plains are lakes,
When February draws her curtains down.
Rain! rain! The universal snow forakes
Moorland and mountain, forest, farm, and town.
Rain! Rain! It pours, it pours. Red land-floods drown
Blue ocean's baffled tide. With calm cold frown,
The cold grey rock, that saw death's cradle, wakes
From his old dream of drowth, to find his home
In cloud-hung deluge. The old forest shakes
His wrinkled forehead o'er the whirling foam
Of inland sea; and with the haste that takes
Life's sad last blessing, down the revels come
Of sky and upland, mix'd in cataract
That rioteth in waste, like one who long hath lack'd.

Would they were written, (and in heav'n they are,)
The patient deeds of men of low estate!
Esteem'd so little, but how truly great!
When will their modest beams be hail'd afar,
And peacefully smile down the poms of war?
Oh, when will Labour's weary sons descry,
Illuming with love an equal sky,
The honour'd rays of Toll's eternal star?
I know that our Redeemer lives; I know
That well he marks our strife with want and fear;
Our long-assur'd inheritance of woe;
I know that his good angels love to write
Our humblest deeds in everlasting light:
But Here Men Toll For Man's Redemption Here!

The latter of the above, it will be seen, is but a quatuorzin. Few, if any, of the series are legitimate; and in fact the first of the fifty may be called a protest against Wordsworth's defence of the sonnet

Nuns fret not at their convent's narrow gloom.
But though we abstain from touching Ebenezer Elliott's political poetry, we cannot resist half a page of his political prose, given among the notes to this "Year of Seeds," in which it will be seen that, after a series of vigorous and vitriolic "interpellations," he gets out of breath and "off his legs," and in feeble ire flounders among conceits at the close of a passage of strong invective.—

"If the foodtaxers in 1848 had Ninety Four Packs of hounds, twenty packs of harriers, and four of stag hounds; and if we suppose the yearly cost of each pack, with that of the horses, grooms, &c., to be only five thousand pounds; landlordism (in England

alone,) expends on one of its amusements half a million a year, and consequently could afford to have that sum added to its land tax. But we are told there is something particularly manly in their favourite amusement, because it is an image of war, and barbarian necessities! Perhaps, however, the manliness is all sham. Perhaps, they do not hunt lions. And, perhaps, insolence is the soul of the amusement, and no sham. Perhaps, they are preservers of vermin. Perhaps, their vermin devour the farmer's poultry. Perhaps, the farmer could get paid for the poultry devoured. Perhaps, he has no wish to be ruined! Perhaps, the worthies, being neck-preservers, too, gap his fences. Perhaps, they poach his rising wheat. Perhaps, they horsewhip him! Perhaps, the horse-whipp'd is a freeholder. Perhaps, he has a pitchfork in his hand, but prefers a lawsuit. Perhaps, he wins his suit, and loses one hundred pounds, for the honour of having been horsewhipped by a palaced-pauper, or the ape of one. Perhaps, Raggabash imitates Ruffian, and gets up a hunt of his own—when the scene between him and justice requires a Hogarth to paint it! And, perhaps free trade (if we get, and can keep it,) will rid these perquisites, and the vermin, too. In the meantime, (for even the vilest must pass away,) behold our landlords as they are—palaced gipsies! mousing on six legs, and in the bosom of refinement; like rats in a cupboard, cherishing the worst habits of wild beasts."

After the sonnets come "a choice" of ballads; more rough than "mischievous," but deficient in clearness of narration. The end of a somewhat vulgar ditty called "Tom and Bet" rises into a strain of poetry for the people, after its heterodox kind, so devotional that we cannot but invite gentle and simple to listen "to the quiring."

Lord! grant to poor o'er-laboured man
More leisure, and less pray'r;
More church, less priest—and homes for inns!
More libraries, and fewer sins;
More music and less care!

And when the tardy sabbath dawns
Bid townsmen leave behind
The goldfinch, smother'd on his perch,
Ginshop and chapel, jail and church,
And drink the mountain wind.

Or teach the artisan to seek
Some village House of pray'r,
And kneel, (an apparition pale,
Amid the rustics red and hale,
And humbly worship there.

Or bid him (in the temple, built
By Skill Divine for all,)
Ex pound to pallid listeners near,
While rose-cheek'd pilgrims stop to hear,
The words of Christ or Paul.

Oh, for the lightning's path, the wing
Of steam or fire to bear
Tir'd men to Edens yet on earth,
Where mind may have its second birth,
And hope baptize despair!

There, in lone shelter'd dales, amid
Their patriarchal trees,
Beneath the skylark's quivering wing,
Let parents, sons, and daughters sing
Great Handel's harmonies.

Then, to the dome of boundless blue,
O'er-roofing sea and land,
Triumphant hope and faith will rise;
And with the anthems of the skies
Mingle their anthem grand.

And sinners saved shall weep again
For sins repeated long,
And broken-hearted, though forgiv'n,
Repeat in music—'Heav'n's
Earth's spirit-warbled song.

'The Gipsy' contains a picture of a storm so sublime, in its melodramatic fashion, as to blind us to the repulsive coarseness of the tawdry creature on whose head it bursts.—

But now she drew nigh to the river again,
And the wood of moss'd birches so old;
While black over Starnage, with hail and with rain,
A tempest of April was roll'd:
Right and left, like a shaft-broken arrow of doom,
Unheard, its red lightning was sent;
And, 'Pip! the broad curtain of fire-lifted gloom,
From the summit, at intervals went:
Like many-tail'd snakes, with their heads on the ground,
And their many tails pendent in air,
In skeleton grimaces, the aged trees around,
From the region of storms, and its black western mound,
Lean'd motionless, silent, and bare;
But her heart heard no voice, when the damp hollow wind
Through their loopy branches drearily moan'd;
Nor felt she his touch, when it wetted each rind,
And the fast-coming thunder-cloud ground'd.

The above diversified passages will give a fair idea of the volume whence they are taken. We leave the last and the longest poem, 'Etheline,' untouched. This is one-third of 'a story in three parts, each containing four books, each part as a story complete in itself,'—and elsewhere called by its writer his "unbated epic." To us it appears but an extravagant romance, clogged and cumbered with weighty words and innocent of character. In works of extended scope, and in dealings with incident, Ebenezer Elliott's strength did not lie:—and we think the reason was too well given by himself in his autobiographical notice to demand re-statement or re-examination.

Hesperos; or, Travels in the West. By Mrs. Houstoun. 2 vols. Parker.

Mrs. Houstoun is an amiable, intelligent, and to some extent, at least, a discreet traveller. Next to the pleasure of a personal run through the land of slavery and civilization, we would elect to travel vicariously with just such a person. Even in her temper, and well acquainted with the necessary evils incident to a constant change of quarters, she seldom indulges the reader with tirades against trifling personal annoyances, and never troubles him with details of her eating and drinking except when something characteristic of manners calls for the record. Being a woman, her attention is naturally directed to the social character and mental aspects of American society, rather than to that which makes the country so imposing to a European imagination—the gigantic nature of its material development. Mrs. Houstoun gives no account of imports and exports—no statement of the number of American ships engaged in trade and fishing—no details of the miles of railway completed and of electric telegraph laid down. Indeed she gives no statistics at all. Figures interest her only in so far as they throw light on social problems:—on slavery, on liberty, on the stability of the republic, on the moral and intellectual development of the inhabitants. She writes, however, from a purely English point of view. She never forgets that the people among whom she is sojourning are our rivals in trade and renown, and next year may possibly be our enemies in war. When she goes to see Bunker's Hill, she does not forget that we repulsed the rebels; she thinks the porter at the *White House* felt ashamed of the meanness of his country, and envious of the greatness and liberality of hers, when he confessed to her that the English Minister at Washington has a salary larger by a fourth than the President of the United States! We must confess, we read the remark of the republican in a very different sense. Mrs. Houstoun is far from being a democrat and a leveller; and is by no means pleased with the freedom of American servants, though she is generally too self-possessed to show a displeasure which would offend "public opinion." Once, however, she is provoked by a democratic stewardess to assert herself in behalf of herrank. The poor stewardess appeals to her against the airs of another passenger; when she crushes her with this tremendous argument:—"No; so long as she can afford to give you five dollars for being civil and respectful, and you are poor enough to be glad to earn them, you are not her equal." The democratic stewardess was extinguished, it is said,—and for the rest of the voyage was very respectful. We hope she got the money:—though we are not sure that Mrs. Houstoun's doctrine is sound. Syro and Zenocles are rich enough to pay for lessons in philosophy,—Plato is poor enough to sell them: are Syro and Zenocles superior to Plato? Stubbs and Styles is poor enough to exhibit Hamlet: are Stubbs and Styles superior to Shakespeare?

is poor enough to exhibit Hamlet: are Stubbs and Styles superior to Shakespeare?

Mrs. Houstoun rather complains of the want of self-assertion acquired by American women, but she admits that with all their defects, the men are the very pink of chivalry. The old devotion to the sex, as she bewails, has almost disappeared from Europe,—but only to take up its abode in the cities and savannahs of the new world, as Gibbon and Byron have both predicted that freedom and civilization will do by and by. She remarked that wherever a piece of incivility to the sex came under her notice, it was always offered by an Englishman. The habit of giving *place aux dames* is not one of our most cherished virtues; and we certainly were amused by the way in which one of our unyielding countrymen received a lesson in politeness from a Yankee.—

"A stage was stopping to change horses, and when it drew up we perceived that in its interior was seated a solitary individual. This individual was a gentleman; and we saw, with half a glance, that he was English. He was busily engaged in reading a newspaper, and with his feet comfortably stretched out on the back seat, was paying no attention to external sights and sounds. He was not, however, allowed to enjoy his luxurious solitude long; for immediately after the stage stopped, the master of the inn opened the door of the carriage, and civilly requested him to move to the opposite seat, as some ladies were about to bear him company on the road. The Englishman's face of astonishment and disgust was highly amusing. He stared at his interlocutor, and looked anything but inclined to comply with his request. The innkeeper continued to assure him, in a bland but still peremptory manner, that the move must be made, for that 'the ladies' were, on all occasions, to be considered first. This doctrine seemed entirely new to the indignant traveller, who, after keeping silence for some minutes during the harangue, with a dignity and solemnity worthy of his country, at last broke out with a degree of violence truly insular. He insisted (quite forgetting the country he was in, and apparently carried away by the force of his imagination to his own *purse-ridden* land) that he had engaged the particular place he occupied at Cumberland, that he had paid for it, and would not give it up for any one living. It made him ill, he affirmed, to sit anywhere else, and being an invalid, he required consideration quite as much as any woman in the world. His opponent only grew the calmer as the Englishman waxed more violent; and I fear, I must add, abusive expletives of anything but a gentle and conciliatory nature, fell thick and fast from his lips, and, by this time, a considerable crowd was collected; among whom were the bones of contention,—namely, the three angular and locomotive females. We began to watch the contest with considerable interest, though we had little doubt as to what the result would finally be. Our countryman continued perfectly immovable; and it soon became evident that nothing but a forcible ejection would have any effect in causing him to quit his place. I quite pitied him; it was so difficult, after committing himself in this public manner, and with so many hostile eyes fixed upon him, to concede anything in this advanced stage of the business. He little suspected, poor man! the signal defeat that was in store for him. At length, the Yankee seemed to understand that there was no chance of concession on the part of his dogged opponent, so he quietly shut up the door of the carriage, saying—'Very well, sir, just as you please; you may stay there from this to eternity, for what I care.' Upon this the Englishman, evidently considering that he had obtained the victory, resumed his newspaper, perhaps his feet, and without condescending to cast even a look on the surrounding crowd, wrapped himself up in his studies. In the mean time, we, who were behind the scenes, looked on, and smiled at the ingenious device to which the innkeeper had recourse. Within an almost incredibly short space of time, another stage, which stood under a sort of open shed, was made ready for the journey, and the horses, which were to have been attached to the carriage in which sat the unsuspecting traveller, were affixed to the vehicle which it was evident was intended by the

treacherous innkeeper to take its place. The passengers were already seated in it, and there still sat the 'Britisher,' in the enjoyment of his dignified solitude, and perfectly unconscious of the absurdity of his position. A shout of laughter from the assembled bystanders at length compelled him to look up: the stage was on the very point of starting; already had the 'All right,' 'Go a-head,' been sung out, when perceiving that there was not a moment to be lost, the Englishman, with a degree of moral courage for which I honoured him, jumped out of his hiding-place, with his pride in his pocket, but with manifest confusion on his brow, and took his place in the contemned 'back seat,' amidst screams of laughter from the crowd, who were overjoyed that the Yankee had 'com 'possum' over the 'Britisher.' I did not envy him his drive with the 'women scorned,' during the tedious hours that must elapse before he could arrive at his journey's end."

The peculiar circumstance which renders society in America so unlike what it is in Europe, is the co-existence of two bloods, the darker of which is the sign of a degraded caste. Mrs. Houstoun first met with an example of this on the voyage out. The male passengers, extreme in their attention to the ladies generally, scrupulously avoided the best dressed, most beautiful, and elegant girl on board—because she had in her veins the supposed taint of negro-blood. Everywhere the same fact forced itself on her observation; the quadroon is not admitted into the society of the pure in blood,—even the prince of negro descent is treated as an outcast. The Emperor of Hayti would not be allowed to sleep for a single night, or sit at a *table d'hôte*, in any fifth-rate tavern in New York—if we may judge from the experience of Prince Boyer.—

"Boyer had been making a lengthened stay in Paris, where he had been received as a gentleman and a man of education. He had been a frequent guest at the Tuileries, and been received on familiar terms at the houses of the foreign ministers. But why recapitulate where he had been, and what description of reception he had met with. He was received as a gentleman—what more can I say?—and enjoyed himself in the best society of Paris. An unlucky fancy, however, seized upon Boyer, which was no other than to vary the pleasant monotony of his life by visiting the United States. The idea was no sooner conceived than acted on, and he and his sable suite took passage across the Atlantic, and in due time arrived at New York. In common with every one else who visits this country, he repaired to the 'City of Hotels,' the Astor House. When, lo! to his astonishment and dismay, he found the doors of the establishment closed against him and his! They did not take in Niggers! The poor prince next tried to gain admittance to two other hotels, with equally ill-success. There was no home in the free (?) city for the black man! At last, a despised liquor shop was pointed out to him, whose owner earned a wretched livelihood by affording nightly shelter to these contemned specimens of the human race; and there the man who was, in civilized Europe, a prince, and, what is a far more distinguished title, a gentleman, was glad to lay his head. At the theatre, similar slights and indignities were offered to him. Neither pit nor boxes opened to receive him, and the next day, indignant and disgusted at the manner in which he had been treated, Boyer and his suite took their departure, and shaking from off his feet the dust of the great republican city, declared that he must go elsewhere, if he hoped to find freedom, for that there it was not."

So rigidly are the two races kept separate that—so far as the law goes—a marriage of a respectable white man, especially in the slave States, with a creole is a thing almost unknown. When staying at New Orleans, Mrs. Houstoun heard of one such alliance, an account of which, with the necessary preface, is told in the following extract.—

"It is well known that marriage between a white man and the descendant of a negro, in however

remote a degree, is not legal in the Slave States: ingenious methods have been found of evading this law; but as a successful employment of such devices, not only subjects the individual so acting to great contempt, but also deprives him of his rights as a citizen, they are very seldom resorted to. Before a marriage can be legally solemnized between a white and a coloured person, the former is required to make oath that he has coloured or negro blood in his veins. The difficulty to a white man taking this oath, lies not only in its absolute falsehood, but in the melancholy fact, that by acknowledging the existence of such a stain in his escutcheon, he voluntarily shuts himself out of the pale of communion with his countrymen for ever. Great, however, as is the natural repugnance to this step, it was once taken, and that not very long ago, by a young American, who was resident in New Orleans. A rich merchant and sugar planter, of, I believe Jewish extraction, had an only child, a daughter, and moreover a Quadroon, of great beauty and accomplishments—to use the most received term. The young lady was the acknowledged heiress of her father's vast wealth, but he refused to bestow either his fortune or his pretty Quadroon on any but a white man, and that in lawful marriage. In spite of the mighty bribe held out, there was found but one man who was daring enough to demand the hand of the lady in marriage, and to be willing to take the oath which was necessary to make that marriage valid in law. With a view, in some sort, to satisfy his scruples of conscience, the suitor of the maiden, previous to his appearing before the authorities, pricked the finger of his fair fiancée, and inserted some of the blood which trickled from the wound into a gash which he had previously made in his own hand. After performing this delicate operation, he fearlessly, and with an open front, took a solemn oath, that within his own veins, negro blood was flowing, and was then allowed to claim his bride. But after such an avowal, America was no longer a country for him, so he lost no time in carrying off his rich and lovely bride to far-off (and, in this case, more liberal) Europe, for there wealth always obtains consideration, and shades of colour are not too closely investigated."

Europeans have often a difficulty in perceiving the traces of negro descent in the Quadroon:—an American is never mistaken. Thin lips, fair complexion, bright brown ringlets, good eyes—these count for nothing, while the fatal sign can be easily discovered in the nails of the hands and feet.

To the question of slavery Mrs. Houstoun devotes a large share of her attention. In principle she states herself to be utterly opposed to slavery: but in the United States she finds many excuses and apologies for the system,—has no belief in its speedy termination,—nor indeed any wish to see it terminated. She says, from her own knowledge she can answer for it that the Negro is better off in the slave States of the Union than in Cuba under the Spaniards, in Jamaica under the English, or in the free States of the Union. Even were these assertions undoubted facts, they would not warrant an inference in favour of the continuance of slavery. Mrs. Houstoun tells us pretty boldly that the "abolition" question in America is a political capital and nothing more. She thinks that if Congress were seriously to propose a general enfranchisement of the slaves, ninety-nine in the hundred persons of the northern States would rise up against it—on the ground that such a measure would flood those States with negro labourers! By the practical men who seek to give the cue to public opinion, it is plausibly urged that the negro is only like a man in debt—a little behindhand with the world; that the means of procuring his freedom are in his own hands,—he need but labour and he will soon be free. This sophism implies that he has the power and the opportunity to labour for himself; but such cases are extremely rare, even if all the capacity for work were not extracted from him in his owner's behalf by aid

of the "beneficent whip." By the withdrawal of every means of culture, the negro is sunk to the lowest condition of the labouring animal; and then such writers as Mrs. Houstoun think he ought to remain a mechanical drudge because he is fit for nothing else!

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Architect and Building Gazette, Vol. I. 1849, folio, 17s. cl.
 Arnold's (T. K.) Henry's First Latin Book, 8th ed. 12mo, 3s. cl.
 Blakey's (R.) History of Philosophy of the Mind, 4 vols. 8vo, 32s. cl.
 Blesington's (Lady) Conversations with Lord Byron, 2nd ed. 8vo, 7s.
 Brodie's (James) Burdens on Land, 8vo, 3s. 6d. cl.
 Burnell's (G. K.) Treatise on Limes, Cements, &c. 12mo, 1s. (Weale.)
 Caird's (J.) The Irish Plantation Scheme, 8vo, 8s. cl.
 Classical Museum, Vol. VII. 8vo, 11s. 6d. cl.
 Crosby's Builder's Price Book for 1850, 8vo, 4s. cl.
 Curzon's (Hon. R.) Visits to Monasteries in the Levant, 3rd ed. 15s. cl.
 Dawes's (Rev. R.) Hints on Secular Instruction, 4th ed. 12mo, 2s. cl.
 Douglass's (R.) Adventures of a Medical Student, 3rd ed. 10s. 6d. cl.
 Draper's Bible Story Book, 1st and 2nd series, in 1 vol. 32mo, 2s. cl.
 Educational Outlines, by a Lady, 8vo, 4s. cl.
 Edgeworth's (M.) Moral Tales, new ed. 1 vol. 6s. 5s. cl.
 Fry's (Rev. H. P.) System of Penal Discipline, 8vo, 6s. cl.
 Goethe's Herman and Dorothea, trans. by Winter, royal 12mo, 3s. cl.
 Grant's (S.) Biblical Dictionary, 8th ed. 6s. 6d. cl.
 Grimaldi's Life and Memoirs, 12mo, 3s. 6d. cl.
 Hann's (J.) Elements of Spherical Trigonometry, 12mo, 1s. (Weale.)
 Hamlyn-Tenison's (B.) History of the Church, 4 vols. 8vo, 32s. cl.
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 Latham's English Grammar for Commercial Schools, 6s. 1s. 6d. cl.
 London Catalogue of Periodicals, &c. for 1850, 8vo, 1s. 6d. cl.
 Low's (David) Appeal to the Country on Free Trade, 8vo, 3s. 6d. cl.
 More Verse and Prose, by the Curran-Laid Rhymers, Vol. I. 6s. cl.
 Niebuhr's Lectures on History of Rome, by Schmitt, 3 vols. 8vo, 12s. 4s. cl.
 O'Connell's Life and Times, by W. Egan, Esq., 2 vols. 8vo, 12s. 4s. cl.
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 Ramsay's History of War between United States and Mexico, 8s. cl.
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 White Jackson (The) by Herman Melville, 8vo, 12s. 4s. cl.
 Whistler to a Newly Married Pair, 8th ed., ed. by Mrs. Balfour, 3s. 6d. cl.
 Williams's (Rev. D.) Composition Simplified, 12mo, 3s. 6d. cl.
 Wilmon's Complete Dictionary of Signia, 18mo, 8s. 6d. cl.
 Year Book of Facts, 1850, by John Timbs, 12mo, 3s. cl.

LITERARY PIRACY.

I feel assured that your sense of justice will procure admission into the *Athenæum* for the following remarks on one of the grossest and most wholesale literary piracies that have been perpetrated by an author in Great Britain for many years. In 1843 I published a work entitled, 'Austria, its Literary, Scientific and Medical Institutions,' &c.—Dublin, Curry & Co.:—containing the result of inquiries set on foot and information collected during a visit to Vienna in the years 1840 and 1841. While in the Austrian capital, I applied myself assiduously to collect the required information from the various sources by any means accessible to the foreigner. Several friends procured me a number of unpublished statistical documents and protocols, and I supplied myself with the several local works bearing on the different subjects treated in my book. I stated in my preface all the sources of information, and described at some length the different authorities I had quoted, in order to give credit where such was due, and to show what value was to be attached to the statistical tables which I published. To mention the names of all who assisted in furnishing me with unpublished information would then at least have been, and might perhaps still be, unpleasant to those persons; but I cannot under the present state of affairs omit mentioning two gentlemen to whom I was at the time particularly indebted—Baron von Hammer Purgstall, and Herr Leopold Neumann, who has since become connected with the Austrian Government.

My attention has just been called by a friend in England to a work, called 'Austria,' by Edward P. Thompson, Esq., author of 'Life in Russia; or, the Discipline of Despotism,' and of 'The Note Book of a Naturalist,' London, Smith, Elder & Co. In the first-named book—which was published in 1849—I find not merely gross plagiarisms, but positively wholesale piracy of entire chapters of my book above referred to. The author does not state in his preface when or for what object he visited Vienna; but says that "circumstances of a peculiar nature connected with the object of his visit threw him among men who could not only enlighten his ideas, but were themselves in some instances persons of authority and influence,—and he accordingly availed himself of the opportunity to collect through their means and assistance the information he was so anxious to obtain. To them, therefore, and to some anonymous writers (?)

to whom he was referred, he is indebted for much of the matter of this work, which he is induced to make public, partly because he knows that many of his countrymen labour under the same difficulties which he experienced, and partly because the subject is one of great interest at this moment when Austria is passing through the critical ordeal of reorganization." The latter portion of this paragraph explains the origin and design of the book:—public attention being directed to Vienna during the late convulsive struggles for independence in Europe, a work on Austria and its capital seemed to offer a good theme on which to speculate a book. So far, however, as Education, &c. is concerned, the author certainly need not have been absent from the British metropolis a single hour to have written that which has appeared under his name.

Mr. Thompson's fourth chapter is devoted to the subject of Education, and with scarcely the transposition of a sentence it is extracted from my book. The pirate goes to work in rather a subtle manner; but as he proceeds he throws off all reserve, ceases to practise the least ingenuity, either in the reconstruction or the transposition of sentences, and has evidently desired the printers to extract so many pages of my work—by which means the various typographical peculiarities existing in the one have been transferred to the other. To illustrate this, the last sentence at page 91 of Thompson begins differently, but ends in the same words as the last sentence at page 2 of my book. The sentence following that is a remarkable one, and as it begins a paragraph, the catch-word is omitted, thus: "In Austria" is left out; but all the following six pages are introduced almost verbatim, without either reference or quotation, and with such trivial alterations as "appointed" for "constructed," "chiefly" for "generally," "distinct" for "separate," &c. After the words "Great Britain," at page 86, an entire paragraph from my book is omitted; but after that the transcription goes on smoothly again, including the table showing the effect of race upon the reception of education, printed at page 11 in my work. After this, I have to thank Mr. Thompson for omitting, at least in this place, (for I cannot tell whether he may not have used the material elsewhere in his book,) four entire paragraphs, until he comes to a description of the Schools of Utility (*Realschulen*) and polytechnic institutions. Here he exhibits rather more intelligence than usual,—for he has transferred from the text of my book M. Saint-Marc Girardin's table of statistics of these institutions to his Appendix, and added to it the figures denoting the number of students and professors, &c., in the celebrated Mining School at Schemnitz, in Hungary, the particulars of which were given me in manuscript by Count Breuner, and which are not to be found in any other printed work. While alluding to Mr. Thompson's Appendix, I may remark that the four tables which follow that just alluded to, namely, those on the Gymnasiums and Universities, the General and the Ecclesiastical, and Military instructional Establishments, are all extracted without acknowledgment from my book; and that printed at page 405, together with the note appended thereto, is merely a transposition of the text of page 27 of my book, with two trifling omissions—that of 14s. in the reduction of Austrian into English money, and that of the date "in 1838." In fact, all the statistical tables in Mr. Thompson's book which purport to exhibit the present condition of the Austrian Empire are now inapplicable, as they are taken from a work written in 1840. The conclusion of the first paragraph at the words "The Academy of Fine Arts," page 91 of Mr. Thompson's book, finishes my first chapter, page 17.

Without wearying your readers, I may just remark as I pass along that Mr. Thompson has purloined pages 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96, down to the paragraph ending with "the latter being equivalent to Master of Arts in the English universities,"—which he is good enough to alter from "the latter being equivalent to the degree of Master of Arts in the British colleges,"—from page 22 to 29 inclusive of my book, but omitting in its proper place the table referring to the Austrian universities at page 28. This latter, however, he gives, minus the date (1839), at page 406 of the Appendix; and he also mixes up one of my notes with the text of page 96 of his book.

At page 117, Mr. Thompson has extracted, also without acknowledgment, Springer's tables showing the number of books published in Austria from 1832 to 1833; but if he had taken any pains to acquire information, he could have got several tables of the same kind of more recent date. On the subject of literature Mr. Thompson is rather less clumsy than in other parts of his book. From page 117 to the end of the chapter on Education, page 123, he has dealt most unscrupulously with my work beginning at page 99 to the end of chapter V., on "The State of Science in Vienna"; but he occasionally reconstructs a sentence,—as, for instance, when speaking of Hungarian literature, he has made the following alterations, from "its literature is said to have arisen during the second half of the last century in the numerous songs and airs which well suited the chivalrous and enterprising spirit of the Magyars," &c., page 101, to "in the course of the last half century Hungarian literature has raised itself considerably. The movement began with a multitude of glees and songs, which found an admirable concord in the lively spirit of the Magyars" (see page 119). This form of transposition of words is followed out in the two succeeding pages of his "Austria."

In Mr. Thompson's chapter on "The Social System of Austria," the information which he gives is entirely extracted from that published by me in 1843. Compare page 315 of his work with page 212 of mine. All the tables of births are extracted from my work.

Occasionally Mr. Thompson deals in what would at first appear to be original composition,—as, for instance, in his descriptions of places; but on a closer inspection it will be found that even this part of his book is of a very harlequin character, and composed of shreds and patches. In the commencement of his chapter on "Vienna and the Viennese," page 323, I detect a single sentence, beginning "Beyond is the glacia, an open green space," &c., quoted from page 121 of another portion of my book not referring to the same subject,—and which shows either with what accuracy this author has investigated the writings of contemporaries, or what difficulty he finds in inventing language for the most commonplace subject. How much of the rest of this page belongs to other writers I cannot tell. Perhaps Mr. Murray might find some scraps of his Hand-book in it. At page 342 Mr. Thompson again has recourse to the scissors in his description of the Museums and the state of the Natural Sciences in Vienna, and quotes in succession seven pages from my book, commencing at page 80, with the exception of one word omitted at the beginning and a few trivial alterations and transpositions throughout the remainder; but he goes back to page 50 of my book for a description of the Zoological Collections.

I have no desire to make further comments on the mode of book-making pursued by this author,—nor on the imposition practised by him on the publishers, Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., and on the public generally, by thus passing off as his own the labours and investigations of others. In no instance has he marked as a quotation the passages to which I have called attention; and in but one instance—that at page 343—has he mentioned the name of the author (and that merely in one word, as a foot note) whose work he has so grossly pirated. It would perhaps amuse some of your readers to examine further into this subject; and see how much of this book was really written by Mr. Thompson,—how much compiled from the works of others to meet a sale supposed to be created by the interest lately felt in the affairs of Austria.—I am, &c.

W. R. WILDE.

21, Westland Row, Dublin, Jan. 21.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

I like your correspondent "Verificator." He understands his subject—deals in facts. If right, he is not to be shaken in his position by mere words; if wrong, you have something to grapple with. I agree with him, and with Dr. Cogswell, that a National Library should contain those works which are "too voluminous, too costly, or of too little value in common estimation" to be found elsewhere, down even to "almanacs, calendars, pamphlets, tracts, and lumber." Every man engaged in historical inquiries is aware that such wind-blown trifles are often of the greatest importance—the key

to perplexing difficulties,—and that it is impossible to meet with one in five hundred of them at the moment required, or at any time except by the accidents of a life devoted to such researches. The modern newspaper, with its great gaping all-engulfing sheet, its endless reports of tedious talk and dull debates, now enables every man to weary the public at his own free will and free of cost: but a century since pamphlets were the barometer of public feeling, the index to public opinion,—and they are invaluable, as Mr. Macaulay can testify. Yet, however historically important, they are of small pecuniary value, temporary in character and limited in interest; and are, almost as a matter of course, used as waste paper by the chance possessor. Up to this point I agree with your correspondent;—but here we must shake hands and part.

"To avow," he continues, "such a principle requires some courage—to follow it up will demand both courage and constancy; especially after the librarian has acquired the melancholy conviction, that the final result of years of labour in this direction is only to make many discontented and a few ungrateful."—"The biographer and the historian," he says, complain that the collection is imperfect: they do not give the librarian credit for "the time and trouble" expended in forming it, imperfect though it be: what is found on the shelves is assumed to have grown there,—and reference in proof is made to certain labours of the officers of the British Museum.

This is a touching and tender picture, and seemingly from the life. If "true, 'tis pity"—but is it true? I will say nothing of the gaping "casuals." No doubt they "wonder":—and this I suspect is one of the misleading influences at the British Museum. But "the biographer" and "the historian" ought to know better,—ought to have some sympathy with years of labour, and some respect for the performance of those humble but drudging duties which have no hopes to prick the sides of ambition. Let me tell the truth, after the fashion of "Verificator,"—by reference to fact.

In the progress of a late historical inquiry, I covered a sheet of paper with notes and questions that could be solved only by reference to contemporary tracts and pamphlets. On visiting the Museum, it appeared that not five per cent. of what I wanted were contained in that great national collection. Shortly after, Mr. Russell Smith published a catalogue of nearly 2,500 "tracts and pamphlets," which he offered for sale,—and I found therein half-a-dozen or more out of thirty-three which I had sought for in vain at the Museum. I assert, with some confidence, that hundreds of lacunæ in the Museum might have been filled from that catalogue alone, for twice as many shillings,—and yet so far as I could learn not a single copy was purchased for the Museum! Mr. Smith's shop is in Compton-street, within half-a-mile of the Museum:—are we to be grateful for the "time and trouble" expended in not going there? "Verificator" is unjust. If our biographers and historians are occasionally oblivious, it is no proof of ingratitude.

The truth I take to be this. The officers of the Museum are proud of the collection intrusted to their charge—they delight to hear it talked of and written about. This is natural,—and even commendable; but it has its mischievous tendencies, not to say consequences. A curious manuscript, a rare classic, a "perfect copy" of a Caxton, a "unique" anything, is sure to furnish its paragraph for European circulation, and is acceptable at three or four or five hundred pounds. So be it—no one objects to the purchase; but I do object, and the public will object in a voice potential, if the Museum be so poor that it cannot afford eighteen pence for a historical tract, or eighteen pounds for a sackful of historical tracts, which it may never again have an opportunity of becoming possessed of,—since, having satisfied the curiosity of the purchaser, they pass, with other waste paper, to the kitchen-maid to light fires. C.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

DESPATCHES have arrived from Capt. Kellett, of H.M.S. Herald, bearing the date of the 27th of November. They confirm the intelligence brought by the American mail, *via* the Isthmus of Panama, relative to the search in Behring's Straits by the Herald

and Plover for the missing Expedition,—and mention the departure of two whale boats for the Mackenzie. It appears that frequent communication was held with the natives along the coast, in the vicinity of Cape Lisburn and Wainwright's Inlet,—but no tidings of the missing navigators could be obtained.

The Herald and Plover reached the latitude of $72^{\circ} 51'$ and the longitude of $163^{\circ} 48'$,—which the despatches state to be the highest latitude yet reached by any English ships. This, however, is an error; for exploring ships have attained the latitude of 77° . Winter Harbour, in Melville Island, where Parry wintered, is $74^{\circ} 47'$ latitude. What must be meant is, that no English ships have attained so high a latitude as $72^{\circ} 51'$ on the meridian of $163^{\circ} 48'$. This latitude is considerably above the line of compact ice, as laid down by Capt. Beechey in 1827,—and affords another proof how greatly the position of the vast ice-fields in the Arctic seas is affected by meteorological and other local causes.

On the 1st of September the ships returned to Kotzebue Sound, where the Plover was to winter; and the Herald proceeded to Mazatlan, where she arrived on the 13th of November. The crew were suffering severely from scurvy,—having been living for nearly six months on salt provisions, without vegetables.

We have every reason to believe, that it is the intention of Government to send out an Eastern Expedition, to continue the search for the missing ships, interrupted by the forced return of Sir James Ross:—and we think that the barren and uncheering nature of the news from Behring's Straits will help to strengthen this intention.

Meantime, Capt. Collinson and his ships are fairly off from the English shores,—having left Plymouth Sound on Sunday last. With a spanking breeze from the north-east, they were soon out of sight. From Plymouth the Expedition sails direct to Valparaiso, where fresh provisions will be obtained. Thence it crosses the Equator, and proceeds to the Sandwich Islands; where the Commodore will wait for instructions from the Admiralty at home, prior to joining the Plover brig,—which is to accompany the Investigator and Enterprise to Behring's Straits.—In addition to the other provisions which we have already mentioned as being made on board the ships, we may state that they carry patent aerial telegraphs for use in the Arctic regions, by which exploring parties detached from the ships in different directions may communicate with each other, or with the ships. The gins made at the dockyard and sent on board last week are described by the Plymouth correspondent of the *Times* as being composed of iron, somewhat in the shape of a bulbous inverted cone, the point of which is of hardened steel, made very sharp. This instrument, which weighs 14 or 15 lb., is attached by a tackle and fall to the outer end of the bowsprit; and being worked on the ship's deck, is allowed to drop suddenly on the ice,—which it will penetrate when of ordinary thickness, and thus clear a passage for the ship.

The earnest good wishes of all Englishmen follow the adventurers into those unknown seas, which they are, it is hoped, to be the first to explore.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE subscription for the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1851, so auspiciously commenced, as we last week announced, by Her Majesty and Prince Albert, is, as might have been anticipated, progressing well in London. The Duchess of Kent follows up the royal munificence by a gift of 100*l*. Among other sums already subscribed, the two Messrs. Jones Loyd have each contributed 500*l*. Mr. J. Bates, Mr. Baring, M.P., two members of the family of the Rothschilds, the two Messrs. Abel Smith, and Mr. Gurney have, likewise, subscribed 500*l*. each. Messrs. Peto & Betts, Messrs. Morrison, Dillon & Co., and Mr. Robinson, of the Ebor Vale Works, each contribute 250*l*. Miss Burdett Coutts, Messrs. Barclay, Perkins & Co., and Messrs. Baker, Turner & Co., each appear on the list for 200*l*. Among subscribers for 100*l*, appear the names of Lords John Russell, Grey, Granville, Lansdowne, and Robert Grosvenor,—Sir George Grey, C. Wood, J. C. Hobhouse, and E. Antrobus,—the Right Hon. H. Labouchere,—Messrs. W. Cubitt, M.P., Thompson,

M.P., T. Cubitt, and G. Peabody,—Messrs. Masterman, Glyn, Roberts, Smith Paine, Williams, Prescott, and Barnett, the bankers,—Messrs. Devaux, Dent, &c. Among subscribers for smaller sums appear the names of the Lord Mayor, Messrs. Grindlay, Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Fuller, Messrs. M. Forster, M.P., Caldecott, and Venables, Sir J. W. Lubbock, Messrs. Prescott, Hankey, Latham, W. Lindley, W. Cotton, Pilcher, Aldermen Salomons, Humphrey, Finnis, and Lawrence, Mr. Sheriff Nicoll, Mr. Bohn the bookseller, Mr. Apsley Pellatt, &c.

We are sorry to announce the death, on the 20th inst., of Mr. O. Rich, of Red Lion Square; well known in the bibliographical world for his collection of rare books relating to the histories of Spain and America, and for his '*Bibliotheca Americana*,' in 2 vols. 8vo.—a work of great labour and research, and of real service to the student of history. Mr. Rich was born in Boston, U.S. in 1783,—went to Spain when young,—resided there for many years,—and filled for some time at Valencia the situation of consul from the United States. He formed while in Spain a rich collection of rare and important works relating to Spanish America, and was the means of sending to this country the valuable library of Don J. A. Conde. Mr. Rich, like the late Mr. Rodd (whom he has so soon followed), was well acquainted with the contents of the books which had passed through his hands. Mr. Ticknor, in his '*History of Spanish Literature*,' makes honourable mention of his services and knowledge.

A library is about to be formed for the use of the clerks of the Bank of England. It is meant to be one of circulation, and to embrace productions of general interest,—not absolutely excluding novels, but preferring works which instruct while they amuse. It is believed that the Governors will assist its formation by a grant of money so liberal that a yearly subscription of a few shillings only from each of the *employés* will be sufficient. They will also appropriate, it is said, an apartment to the reception of the volumes, and for a reading-room after the hours of business.—It is pleasant to add, that the initiative in this matter was taken by those having authority.

The question of an international copyright between this country and the United States—so important to authors and publishers, and hardly less so in the general result to readers—is gradually arriving at that species of illustration which must ere long render it obvious to American authors, that their interests are as much involved in its speedy settlement as are those of their English brethren. The verdict given in the English Court of Exchequer last June, by declaring that "no alien can hold literary rights of property in these islands," settled the law of the case. It was only needful after this decision to see by practical tests the results that would arise out of it. Those tests have now been applied—and with the effect which we foresaw at the time. The American historian or novelist is placed now on precisely the same footing in England as the English historian or novelist is in the States:—a footing which is essentially wrong. It has, however, now acquired the negative merit of being equally unjust in the two cases. Mr. Prescott is as defenceless as Mr. Macaulay,—the MS. fictions of Mr. Fenimore Cooper are worth no more in London (to the author) than those of Mr. Charles Dickens are in New York. This is the distinct tangible result to the American author in the matter of money,—but by no means the whole of the case. He suffers something like a loss of caste in the reading world, besides. A publisher who has a right of property in the book which he sells consults his own interests as well as the tastes of a high class of readers by issuing it in the form most appropriate to the subject of which it treats; but where there is no security against cheap reprints, who will have the hardihood to spend money in ornament? The recent case of Washington Irving's '*Life of Goldsmith*' has given the *coup de grace* to the matter. Mr. Murray first brought out the book—a large one at the price—for six shillings; almost immediately afterwards Mr. Clarke reprinted it at half-a-crown; still more recently it has been issued in the Shilling Library. Mr. Murray has no remedy: but will he not be chary of publishing any other American work? Thus, the writers who have hitherto exhibited what we cannot but think so culpable an indifference to the interests of English men of letters

on the other side of the Atlantic, will find their own productions instead of lying in luxurious editions on the shelves of first-rate houses, cast by their own national injustice as a prey to the cheap publishers of Holywell-street.—This is the *argumentum ad hominem*. No doubt, we shall soon have as strong a feeling in New York and Philadelphia in favour of a copyright act as we already have in London.

The Council of the Geological Society of Dublin have offered three prizes, each of the value of 5*l*. in books, to be awarded for the three most valuable papers in the order of merit, that shall be communicated and read to the Society prior to the 31st of December 1850, on Theoretical or Descriptive Geology, or the application thereto of any of the kindred sciences. The competition is to be free to all persons, except to members of the Council of the Society. The Society does not bind itself to the publication of any papers presented for such competition,—nor to award any prize unless papers of adequate merit shall be presented.

We have been recently appealed to by another of those incidents which from time to time startle us into recollecting how much still remains for the educators of public opinion to do. This last memento ought by its excess of horror to excite every one to double diligence. We allude to the death of the poor girl known in Wombwell's menagerie as "The Lion Queen";—who was the other day destroyed by an infuriated animal, in the presence of holiday-folks assembled to "cheer on her performances," in its den. Can such a frightful tragedy call for comment in these days? Is it necessary once more to point out that, although the law be powerless to restrain proceedings so disgraceful and demoralizing, every person who witnesses any exhibition repulsive to taste, useless as not establishing any scientific fact, and tempting miserable beings to peril their lives, limbs, or reason for hire, is in part responsible for such catastrophes as these? Surely the case is one to be taken up by all humane and thoughtful persons who do not confound curiosity with cruelty, pastime with peril. These in private—and those who through the public press command larger audiences—are justified in denouncing as inconsistent all persons professing philanthropy, and as degraded all persons pretending to refinement, who countenance spectacles of this quality. The same universal disparagement and censure which have contributed to blot prize-fighting, bull-baiting, and the once beloved excitements of the cock-pit out of the list of the Englishman's sports should visit every Englishwoman witnessing such monstrous exhibitions as cost the poor "Lion Queen" her life, henceforward and for ever! But we must not confine the working out of a true principle within the limits of an antithesis. These things are bad and their tendency brutifying,—and as such to be abominated by all. Many of those who thoughtlessly flocked to the menagerie to be thrilled by the sight of a girl shut up among stupefied, not subdued, brute-beasts, will be shocked to be told that the Tiger which "did the deed" is sure to "rise in the market" as an attraction. Yet so it must be. Their vacant thirst for excitement has set the example which concur curiosity may work out in forms more publicly offensive, but essentially not more unworthy for thinking and feeling human beings to participate in.—It is fair to add, that strict orders are said to have been issued by the proprietors of the menagerie that no more such exhibitions shall take place.

A statement of the affairs of the late "Newspaper Press Benevolent Association," in justification of the directors of that body, has been sent to us. After carefully reading the statements on which it relies, we feel that the explanation is not so satisfactory as we could have wished for the credit of all parties connected with the press. The Association was founded in 1837, for the relief of distressed members; the funds being raised by annual subscriptions of four guineas—for working printers a very large sum—and by donations from the benevolent. From causes which are not referred to in this exculpatory document, after a short period of great success the Association began to decline. The subscription was reduced to two guineas a year;—still, more and more of the members fell away. At length, only eighteen were left—not enough to form a board of directors. But the Association was not without

funds at this time: on the contrary, it seems to have been rich, though the amount of assets is not stated. The few remaining members dissolved the Association—and divided the money amongst themselves.—These are the bare facts as set forth. On the legality of the last step taken we express no opinion; any one interested in the matter may ascertain by reference to the rules whether so small a number of members had power to dissolve the Association. But we are at a loss to understand how men can feel justified in privately dividing funds which were confessedly subscribed for public objects,—at least while those objects remain unachieved. A new institution with a view to the same results as the ex-association has recently come into life:—might not the surplus funds have been transferred, under proper guarantees of course, to this new body? There are not wanting charities enough in London to which any such surplus would have been extremely useful and acceptable. The course, in favour of which an expression of opinion is asked, seems to us the most open to the imputation of selfishness of any which the directors could have followed. It is not yet too late for them to retrieve the error.

A "local correspondent," uneasy at the shame and ridicule with which his town has for some time past been placarded as a haunt of old-world narrow-mindedness, (to call the thing by its gentlest name) enables us to set the intellect and liberality of Derby right with all such persons in England as do not hold with the Inquisition, or imagine that free discussion is to be hedged and ditched out by an *Index Expurgatorius*. The "mechanics," it will be seen in the following communication, have in true wisdom shamed the gentry, which (so far as the latter are concerned) is a pity.

Some time ago I called your attention to the fact of the Committee of the Derby Town and County Library having ejected Miss Martineau's "Eastern Life" from their shelves, and I have since observed an occasional joke at the expense of our old notions in your columns. I think it right, therefore, to vindicate our reputation with you by informing you, that the Committee of the Derby Mechanics' Institution, (which possesses a library nearly, if not quite, equal to its more aristocratic competitor) have unanimously agreed to purchase the book.—I am, &c. &c.
Derby, Jan. 27, 1820.

The Continental papers report the death of the eminent Italian architect, Pietro Bianchi,—the artist of the Church of St. Francisco di Paolo. He was a member of the Academies of Fine Arts at Florence, Bologna, Modena, Venice, Stockholm, and Copenhagen,—and a Knight of several orders.

It is instructive to watch the course of that mighty leveller—Steam, in the influence which it is silently but securely exerting over all the old habits of life here and everywhere.—

Tramp, tramp across the land, * *
Tramp, tramp across the sea,
Goes the iron horse. In high places and in low places his power is equally felt—by prince and by peasant—by farmer and by citizen: thus suggesting a new value to time—here invading the regions of first ideas, rousing, quickening, exciting the sluggish minds that might else have slumbered for ages in the true "children of the soil." The radius of observation is enlarged for all; there is more contact—conflict—of man with man. The very poorest have acquired some power of locomotion; and in England, Belgium, and the United States—countries in which railways and steamboats have acquired the largest development—there are probably not many persons to be found whose world is still bounded by the traditional "league from home." All this gives, at present, an air of hurry and impatience to our social movements; but the solid gain is too vast for us to quarrel with the accidental and temporary drawback. The ungraceful hurry will in time subside—and we shall learn to wear our new resources with proper dignity. Part of our present impatience arises from our powers not being yet co-ordinated. After travelling for three hours at "express" speed, we feel unduly fretted at a petty delay. We are impelled to relieve ourselves of all needless incumbrances by the way.—It is curious to watch the falling behind of ceremonials and formalities in the rush of the iron horse. The French Government, it is said, are preparing for the abolition of passports.—Queen Victoria has dispensed with the services of her Windsor guard of cavalry. Her Majesty finds the company of a troop of horse in passing from her residence to the railway station, quite superfluous—and she has ordered the barrack

to be taken down, and the regiment to be sent to Canterbury! The circumstance is not without its moral. As we become better aware how much our "seventy years" are capable of, we are the less inclined to waste any of it in trifling. "If I had my life to live again," said William Penn, at forty, "I could do all that I have done, and by an improvement of the mode have seven years to spare." The facilities of movement which we possess would have given him at least two or three years more. We increase the real area of life by removing its unproductive spaces.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—THE GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS will OPEN on Monday, the 4th of February next, and will continue OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s.

THE NILE.—RE-OPENED AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.—The new and splendid MOVING PANORAMA of the NILE, showing all the stupendous Works of Antiquity on its Banks, from Cairo the capital of Egypt to the Second Cataract in Sobab. Painted by Henry Warren and James Fahey from drawings made by Joseph Bonomi during many years' residence there.—Morning 3; Evening 5 o'clock.—Shalls 2s, Pitt 2s, Gallery 1s.

THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS and SKETCHES in OILS, comprising Works by the most eminent living Artists, is OPEN from Ten till Dusk daily. Admission (including Catalogue), 1s; Season Tickets, 2s each. "A cabinet collection of real gems of British Art"—Times, Dec. 21. 130, Regent Street. J. L. GRUNDY, Manager.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.
The First of a Series of ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, by Dr. Bachofner, on the PHILOSOPHY of SCIENTIFIC RECREATION. Daily at Two o'clock, and in the Evening at Eight.—AN ENTIRELY NEW SET OF DISSOLVING VIEWS of LONDON in the SIXTEENTH CENTURY and AS IT NOW IS, with a Descriptive Lecture, Daily at Half-past Four, and in the Evening at a Quarter to Ten.—THE VIEWS of ROME, including New Views of the Interior and Exterior of ST. PETER'S, with DIORAMIC EFFECTS, are shown Daily at One o'clock.—LECTURES on CHEMISTRY, with brilliant Experiments, by Mr. Ashley.—Experiments with the DIVER and DIVING BELL.—NEW EXHIBITION of CHROMATOPES.—THE MACHINERY, MODELS, &c. EXPLAINED.—Admission, 1s; Schools, half-price.

SOCIETIES

ROYAL.—Jan. 10.—G. Rennie, Esq., V. P., in the chair.—The Lord Bishop of Manchester was admitted.—The following paper was read:—'Experiments and Observations upon the Properties of Light.' By Lord Brougham. The author states that the optical inquiries which he here gives an account were conducted in the first instance under the most favourable circumstances, arising from the climate of Provence, where they were commenced, being peculiarly adapted to such studies: he further states that he subsequently had the great benefit of a most excellent set of instruments made by M. Soleil, of Paris; remarking, however, that this delicate apparatus is only required for experiments of a kind to depend upon nice measurements, and that all the principles which he has to note in this paper as the result of his experiments can be made with the most simple apparatus and without any difficulty or expense. His statement of the results of his experiments is thrown into the form of definitions and propositions, for the purpose of making it shorter and more distinct, and of subjecting his doctrines to a fuller scrutiny. He premises that he purposely avoids all arguments and suggestions upon the two rival theories, the Newtonian or Atomic, and the Undulatory.—The following are the author's definitions and propositions.—

Definitions:—1. *Flexion* is the bending of the rays of light out of their course in passing near bodies.—2. *Flexion* is of two kinds—*inflexion*, or the bending towards the body; *deflexion*, or the bending from the body.—3. *Flexibility*, *deflexibility*, *inflexibility*, express the disposition of the homogeneous or colour-making rays to be bent, deflected, or inflected by bodies near which they pass.

Proposition 1.—The flexion of any pencil or beam, whether of white or of homogeneous light, is in some constant proportion to the breadth of the coloured fringes formed by the rays after passing by the bending body. Those fringes are not three, but a very great number, continually decreasing as they recede from the bending body, in deflexion, where only one bending body is acting; and they are real images of the luminous body by whose light they are formed.

Prop. 2.—The rays of light when inflected by bodies near which they pass are thrown into a condition or state which disposes them to be on one side more easily deflected than they were before the first flexion; and disposes them on the other side to be

less easily deflected: and when deflected by bodies they are thrown into a condition or state which disposes them to be more easily inflected, and on the other side to be less easily inflected than they were before the first flexion.

Prop. 3.—The disposition communicated to the rays by the flexion is alternative; and after inflexion they cannot be again inflected on either side; nor after deflexion can they be deflected. But they may be deflected after inflexion, and inflected after deflexion, by acting on the sides disposed, and not by acting upon the sides polarized.

Prop. 4.—The disposition impressed upon the rays, whether to be easily deflected or easily inflected, is strongest nearest the first bending body, and decreases as the distance increases.

Prop. 5.—The fringes made by the second body acting upon the rays deflected by the first, must, according to the calculus applied to the case, be broader than those made by the second body deflected those rays inflected by the first.

Prop. 6.—When one body only acts upon the rays, it must, by deflexion, form them into fringes or images decreasing as the distance from the bending body increases. But when the rays deflected and disposed by one body are afterwards inflected by a second body, the fringes will increase as they recede from the direct rays. Also, when the fringes made by the inflexion of one body, and which increase with the distance from the direct rays, are deflected by a second body, the effect of the disposition and of the distances is such as to correct the effect of the first flexion, and the fringes by deflexion of the second body are made to decrease as they recede from the direct rays.

Prop. 7.—It is proved by experiment that the inflexion of the second body makes broader fringes or images than its deflexion, after the deflexion and inflexion of the first body respectively; and also that the deflexion fringes decrease, and the inflexion fringes increase with the distance from the direct rays.

Prop. 8.—The joint action of two bodies situated similarly with respect to the rays which pass between them so near as to be affected by both bodies, must, whatever be the law of their action, provided it be inversely as some power of the distance, produce fringes or images which increase with the distance from the direct rays.

Prop. 9.—It is proved by experiment that the fringes or images increase as the distance increases from the direct rays.

These propositions are illustrated by particular instances, and their truth is shown by experiments and by some mathematical investigations. The author concludes his paper by a few observations tending further to illustrate and confirm the foregoing propositions, and for the purpose of removing one or two difficulties which had occurred to others until they were met by facts, and also of showing the tendency of the results at which he had arrived.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Jan. 14.—Capt. Smyth, R.N., President, in the chair.—F. Galton and M. Parkyn, Esqs., both African travellers, were elected Fellows. The President announced that the report concerning the death of John Duncan, Esq., Vice-Consul at Whydah, had been officially confirmed.

Paper read.—'Notes on Texas,' by W. Bollaert, Esq. This paper commenced by stating that Texas, once a province of Mexico, was wrested from it by a handful of American farmers, who ultimately handed their conquest over to the United States. The exact boundary was given, the courses and other details of its rivers, the division of it, beginning at the coast, into alluvial, diluvial, and other strata, and then mountainous, where the primary rocks are found. The coast line, some 400 miles in length, is made up of recently formed sandy islets, very low, of a most unfavourable aspect, and backed up by prairies. The author entered fully into particulars of wind currents and other physical phenomena; and mentioned some particulars of the earthquake of 1812, which shook the greater part of the valley of the Mississippi, reaching even into Texas. He also alluded to a shock felt by himself on Galveston Island in 1842, and to the falling of a mass of meteoric iron near Red River in 1814. Mr. Bollaert illustrated his paper by sections, showing the distances travelled

over, their direction, elevations above the sea, latitudes, longitudes, &c.

Section 1, from Galveston to Austin.—The island of Galveston has only an average height of ten feet above the waters of the Gulf. After leaving the prairies of the coast, rich woodlands were entered, in which the live oak and magnolia abounded, together with deer and birds in great numbers, and occasionally a puma and jaguar. Houston was found to be only seventy feet above the sea. The course lay towards the Brazos, where fossil bones and large fossil teeth of the elephant were found at San Felipe de Austin, as well as other localities. At Austin, Mount Bonnell was described as being 700 feet above the sea, and composed of corn rock, oyster, and other shells; and in the vicinity ammonites, nautili, encrinurites, trilobites, &c. were found. The San Saba country was alluded to as containing indications of gold, silver, and lead.

Section 2, from Columbus to San Antonio, was over fine prairie and undulating lands, with rich surface soil above indurated sand; under the latter some of the cretaceous rocks. The author gave a description of the western prairies, with their multitudes of game, and spoke of San Antonio as the most interesting spot in Texas, first for the beauty of its position, and as having been the continual battle-ground of the old Spaniards with the Indians (many tribes of whom only exist by name), and more recently of the sanguinary frays between the Mexicans and the victorious Texans. Allusion was made to the old "Missions," now in ruins, where formerly the jolly priest and his companion the soldier once revelled, and where now large bats have taken their places. The wild turkey was in great abundance in this section.

Section 3, was to the Guadalupe Mountains, where some fine grazing land was met with, much game, including bear and buffalo, and wild honey. It was, however, a wild-looking country, and no one laid himself on his pallet without having his bowie-knife ready, and his hand near to his rifle. There was found much cedar and cypress in this region.

Section 4, to the Leona, the country was alive with deer and antelope, with no want of rattlesnakes, centipedes, red bugs, Spanish flies, &c. Mr. Bollaert mentioned that good grazing land might be found in this district. The mountains here are 2,000 feet above the sea.

Sections 5 and 6, take an easterly direction to Corpus Christi on the gulf. The lands are rather silicious, and one hill was found composed of pure quartz, and silicified wood was met with. Much of this country has dense thorny underwood, and here may be seen the cactus in many varieties, including the opuntias or prickly pears which have more than once afforded food for many days to armies traversing these regions. Towards the coast fine prairies, covered with rich grass (the musquito) occur, over which roam vast herds of mustangs or wild horses. Near San Patricio Mr. Bollaert and his small party were nearly taken by the Comanches, it requiring much caution to avoid them; no lighting of fires, no shooting; and in this way the party were many days with little or no food, one of his party dying in consequence of fatigue.

Section 7, Columbus on the Colorado to Trinity River, and thence to Galveston. Very rich alluvial country was passed over, where tobacco and indigo were grown. Montgomery country presented vast "pine barrens," with the vicinities of rivers fit for cotton, maize, &c. There were reports that good coal was to be found at Ocoila. Mr. Bollaert examined the locality with great care, but found no coal, and only slight indications of recently decomposed and slightly bituminized matter. Coal had been reported to exist in other parts of Texas, but it appeared to Mr. Bollaert to have as little foundation as the existence of it at Ocoila. The Trinity River was descended in a steamer, passing much well timbered land, cane brakes, cotton and maize plantations, to Galveston. Allusion was then made to researches on the Rio Grande, and the great salt lakes near it, to North-Eastern Texas, and a trip from Franklin to the Arkansas, showing that in the Wichita and Kiaway mountains there are indications of gold and lead, and reference was made to the "cross timbers" of Texas. As to climate, it was stated to be as varied as the productive qualities of

the soil; but the coast region extends 150 miles in some places inland, and cannot be recommended to European emigrants, but that section is filling up with planters and their negroes from the United States. In 1844 the population was—whites, 100,000; Indians, 25,000; negroes (slaves), 20,000. In 1847 the whites had augmented as well as the slaves. Public debt in 1848, 5,500,000 dollars; the State Government holding 160,000,000 acres of land, which, valued at three cents per acre, would pay off the debt. The revenue of Texas in 1847 was 42,000*l.*, the expenditure, 29,000*l.* The estimated area of Texas is put down at 203,502,000 acres, or nearly four times the size of France.

In commenting on the memoir of Mr. Bollaert, Sir R. Murchison gave great credit to the author for his clear and well-arranged description of the climatal and geological phenomena of Texas, and expressed regret that Sir C. Lyell should have been prevented from being present, because he would have seen how materially the observations of Mr. Bollaert illustrated his own views of the growth of deltas and new lands on the east coast of America. Although this region has no productive gold works, still, as Mr. Catlin (in giving a graphic sketch of all the relations of Upper Texas to California in the west, and South Carolina in the east) had suggested theoretically, that gold ore and quartz rocks might be found to have a continuous spread from west to east, he, Sir R. Murchison, felt bound to say that the facts did not sustain such a theory. On the contrary, the auriferous chain of the Rocky Mountains, with its subsidiary parallels in California, together with their prolongation in Peru and Chili, are more or less in a meridian direction. In the United States the Appalachian chain directed N.N.E. to S.S.W., and composed of the older palæozoic rocks, becomes auriferous in its southern prolongation, where the sandstone has been converted into quartz and the shales into crystalline schists.—The subject of the distribution of gold ore, Sir R. Murchison observed, would be more fully explained by him in an evening lecture at the Royal Institution.

ASIATIC.—Jan. 19.—The Earl of Ellesmere, President in the chair.—Major Rawlinson commenced the reading of his long-expected communication 'On the interesting Monuments found on the site and in the vicinity of Nineveh.' He began with some remarks on the comparative geography of Assyria. He showed that the ruins of Nimrud must represent the old Biblical city of Calah, or Halah; the latter form assimilating very closely to the cuneiform orthography of the name—and further proofs being afforded by the Greek title of Calachene belonging to the district, by the evident connexion of Lachisa (as the Samaritan version terms Calah), with Xenophon's Larissa, and by the absolute identity between Hadith, which is the Chaldee name for Calah, and the Haditha of the Arabs, a large town in the immediate vicinity. The true Nineveh, an older city probably than Halah, Major Rawlinson placed at Nebi Yunas, opposite to Mosul; and he spoke of Koyunjik as the suburb of Mespila; while he described Khorsabad as a city named especially after the king who founded it,—and suggested the possible identity of the king's name, read under one form as Sargon, with the title of Sar'un or Sarghun, which the Arabs apply to the ruins. The chronological question was next briefly noticed; and it was stated that although nothing positive had been yet elicited from the inscriptions as to the origin or duration of the Assyrian monarchy, there were still good grounds for assigning the earlier Nimrud sculptures to the twelfth or perhaps the thirteenth century before the Christian era,—a date which would pretty well synchronize with the temporary depression of Egypt at the close of the eighteenth dynasty, and which would thus account for the sudden aggrandizement of Assyria.—Allusion was then made to the extreme difficulty of rendering the inscriptions of Nimrud and Khorsabad available for the illustration of history, owing to the practice which the Assyrians followed of distinguishing their proper names by the sense, rather than by the sound; so that the form of a name could be varied, *ad libitum*, by the employment of synonyms, expressed either symbolically or phonetically. A further source of confusion was noticed in the multiplicity of names

attaching to the different divinities, any one of which might be employed in forming a king's name, without regard to phonetic uniformity. The paper then went on to examine the Assyrian inscriptions. It was stated that the Nimrud kings were, undoubtedly, the most ancient of whom any records have yet been discovered on the Tigris or Euphrates. Six of these kings, who followed in a line of direct descent, were enumerated by name: they were Hevenk I. (a name suggested to be the same as the Evechius of Alexander Polyhistor, whom Syncellus identified with Nimrud); Alti-bar; Asser-adan-pal, or Sardanapalus; Temen-bar; Hushem; and Hevenk II. An earlier monarch, whom Major Rawlinson distinguished as Temen-bar I., and whom he conjectured to be the father of Hevenk I., was also spoken of as the original founder of the city of Halah, or Nimrud. A brief account was given of Sardanapalus, the builder of the N. W. palace of Nimrud, and the earliest Assyrian king whose inscriptions have come down to us. He was shown to be the warlike Sardanapalus whose tomb was described by Amyntas at the gate of the Assyrian capital, and whom Callisthenes took care to distinguish from the better-known voluptuary of historical romance. Portions of the dedicatory inscription which is repeated above one hundred times on his palace were read and explained. The gods whom he worshipped,—Assarac, and Beltis, the shining Bar, Ani and Dagon, were duly enumerated; and a special note was read on the subject of Assarac, the head of the Assyrian Pantheon, showing him to be the same as the Biblical Nisroch, and comparing him with the Chronos of the Greeks. A list was also given of the provinces tributary to Assyria at the period of the building of this palace by Sardanapalus. The list comprised many districts of Syria and Asia Minor, the country upon the Tigris, Armenia, the lands watered by the two Zabs, and the lower regions, as far as the shores of the Persian Gulf. It was remarked that Phenicia, apparently, at this period had not come under the dominions of Assyria, though its conquest must have occurred very shortly afterwards; Sardanapalus having recorded on certain votive bulls and lions how, after having passed the great desert into Syria, he had received the tribute of Tyre and Sidon, of Akarna, of Gubul, and of Arvad. After some further observations on the extent and power of Assyria under Sardanapalus, Major Rawlinson proceeded to read the annals of Temen-bar II.; who, it was observed, had commemorated his wars on the black obelisk now in the British Museum,—on the two large bulls in the centre palace of Nimrud,—and also on the sitting figure discovered at Kileh Shergat. The obelisk inscription, it was stated, commenced with an invocation to the Assyrian gods, among whom the following names could be identified with some certainty:—Assarac, Ani, Nit, Artak, Beltis, Shemir, Bar; and, perhaps, also, Ammun and Horus, Nebe, Tal, and Set. Temen-bar then recorded his genealogy, naming his father, Sardanapalus, and his grandfather, Alti-bar; and afterwards went on to chronicle his wars,—describing the events of each regnal year with great exactness, and at the same time with remarkable simplicity. These wars appeared to be directed against all the nations continuous with Assyria. In Syria Proper, the chief antagonists of the king were Hemithra and Ar-hulena, the rulers of Atesh, (which Major Rawlinson considered to be Hems, or Emessa) and Hamath, who were confederated with the Sheta, and the twelve tribes of the upper and the lower country. These Sheta, (or Khelta, according to the usual orthography at Khorsabad) were, Major Rawlinson observed, undoubtedly the same as the Khita of Egyptian history. They appeared to be a large tribe, holding the entire country between the Syrian desert and the Mediterranean; and it was suggested that the Hittites of Scripture were either an offshoot from, or a fragment of, the same nation. On one occasion, while the king was in this country of Atesh, or Hems, among the tribes of the Sheta, he received the tribute of Tyre and Sidon and Gebal.—The expeditions of the king, whether directed against Syria Proper or Asia Minor or Upper Armenia, were usually prefaced with the phrase "I crossed the Euphrates." Some hundreds of names were repeated of countries, of tribes and of nations, of which a few only could be identified.—In the ninth year

of the king's reign he led an expedition to the southward, to the land of Shinar, or Babylonia, raising altars to the gods in the cities of Shinar and Borsippa; and subsequently pursuing his march as far as the land of the Chaldees, who dwelt on the sea-coast. On two occasions, in his sixteenth and twenty-fourth years, the king led his armies to the eastward, crossing the lower Zab, and ascending the range of Zagros. He recounts his movements in this direction against the Arians (the Arian of Herodotus), the Persians, the Medes, and the Armenians of Kharkhar. On two other occasions he sent his general, Tetarassa, to wage war on the same nations; and among the conquests of this chief is found the land of Minni, which was undoubtedly, as Major Rawlinson observed, the country of that name associated by the prophet Jeremiah with Ararat and Askchenaz, in his denunciation against Babylon; and which appeared to be the province of which Van was the capital, as the local title of the sovereigns recorded at that place very nearly corresponds with the Assyrian orthography of Minni. After following the record through the whole series of the thirty-one years of Temen-bar's reign, Major Rawlinson made a few remarks on the epigraphs attached to the figures sculptured on the obelisk. These he explained as describing the tribute brought in from different lands to the Assyrian king. The rare animals about which so much curiosity has been excited—that is, the two-humped camel, the elephant, the wild bull, the unicorn, the antelope, the monkeys and the baboon—were stated to appear among the tribute of a country named Misr; which there were grounds for supposing might be the same as Egypt, inasmuch as the sculptures of Khorsabad proved that Misr adjoined Syria, and as the same name, (that is, a name pronounced in the same manner, though written with a different initial character) was used at Persepolis and Behistún for the Persian Mudráya. It was further stated, that the only animals specifically mentioned in the epigraphs were horses and camels, the latter being called "beasts of the desert with the double back;" and, it was remarked, that if Misr should ultimately prove to designate Egypt, it would be necessary to suppose that these animals had been imported into the country as curiosities from India. In conclusion, Major Rawlinson alluded to the later inscriptions of Assyria. He stated his belief that an interregnum occurred between Hevenk II. and the king who built Khorsabad; but that this interregnum was of no great duration, for not only were the titles, the language, and the mythology of the two periods almost identical, but the Khorsabad king had recorded his residence in the palace of Nimrud, built by Sardanapalus, "the fourth in descent from myself." If indeed, it was noticed, this last phrase were correctly rendered, it would show that as Hevenk II, Husi-hem, and Temen-bar II, exactly filled up the interval indicated between the Khorsabad king and Sardanapalus, the line was considered, notwithstanding the interregnum, to have been kept on in a continuous succession. At any rate, Major Rawlinson thought that all the inscriptions of Assyria yet discovered, whether found at Nimrud or Khorsabad, or at Koyunjik, belonged to that line of kings known in history as the dynasty of Ninus and Semiramis. He did not believe that we had hitherto found any memorials of the lower dynasty, or of those kings mentioned in Scripture as contemporary with the kingdoms of Israel and Judah; and he almost expects that if such memorials should come to light, Assyria would be found during the period in question to have been in dependence on the lords paramount of Media. Before sitting down, Major Rawlinson engaged to read to the Society at an early date a *précis* of all the other inscriptions which he had had an opportunity of examining; observing that the Khorsabad inscriptions furnished the most valuable material yet discovered for the early geography of the East, and were of particular interest in showing that a strong Scythic element had been introduced into the population of Western Asia during the period which intervened between the eras of Nimrud and Khorsabad.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—Dec. 13.—Mr. Hogg read a notice of a document purporting to

be an authentic record of the sentence pronounced on our Saviour by Pilate. It contains the sentence itself,—that Jesus should suffer death on the cross between two thieves,—the reasons of it, a prohibition forbidding all persons to hinder the execution, concluding with the signatures of four witnesses; the whole said to be engraved in Hebrew on a plate of brass discovered at Aquila in 1802, and now in the Chapel of Caserta. Notwithstanding the plausible formality both of the document and of the story of its preservation, Mr. Hogg pronounces it to be probably a forgery,—but thinks that sufficient interest belongs to it to justify further inquiry.

The Secretary read the beginning of a memoir on 'Athens under the Dominion of the Franks.'

Jan. 10.—The Secretary read a memoir 'On the Island of Cerigo,' by Mr. Calucci, senator for Cerigo at the Senate of the Ionian Islands; followed by a commentary on Mr. Calucci's remarks on the archaeology of the island by Col. Leake.—The island of Cerigo, though about two-thirds of its soil is now under cultivation, and notwithstanding considerable recent improvements in the condition of the inhabitants, is unequal to the support of its population, the number of whom amounts to about 12,000; a portion annually going to the continent of Greece, to Asia Minor, or to Candia to earn a subsistence. The money these persons bring back and the payments received from Corfu for the military establishment supply the means of procuring the requisite imports, the chief of which is corn. The limited exports are confined to very small quantities of oil, onions, wine, cheese, and honey. The city of Cerigo, considering its small extent, has of late years been making considerable advances, both in its buildings—particularly as regards its schools—and in the civilization and improvement of the people. The most remarkable public works in the island are, however, the bridges built and the roads opened under the care of Capt. Macphail, the British resident. In the city are five schools of mutual instruction, a gymnasium or public school of a superior order, and a literary society. The clergy consist of an archbishop and one hundred and twenty priests in the whole island. The antiquities of Cerigo are of less interest than might have been expected, and are chiefly confined to two localities, Palaioastron and Paleopoli. The former has rewarded the researches of archaeologists only with a Greek inscription and some fragments of ancient architecture; but at Paleopoli they have been more fortunate. Numerous lachrymatories, as well of glass as of stone, with other vessels of various form and size, having been found in its tombs,—but especially coins, some of which—bearing a head on one side with a dove on the other, and the letters KYΘ—appear to point out that place as the site of the temple of Venus Urania, at the Phœnician colony, the Cythera of Thucydides and Xenophon, stated by Pausanias to have been the most ancient temple of the goddess in Greece. This testimony seems to be confirmed by the discovery, at the same spot, of a quadrangular seal, inscribed with characters similar to those which appear on the seals brought from Syria and the neighbourhood of Babylon. A remarkable difference occurs in regard to the situation of Cythera between the account given by Pausanias and the narratives of Thucydides and Xenophon; the historians placing it at Paleopoli,—the traveller at a very different spot, where the city of Cerigo now stands. It was chiefly for the purpose of clearing up this difficulty that Col. Leake, in a letter to the Secretary, added this valuable commentary. "I conceive," writes the learned chorographer, "that his [Pausanias's] description indicates the change that had taken place in this island during the great interval, nearly six centuries, which had elapsed between the time of the historians and that of the Greek traveller. In his time the ancient site at Paleopoli had probably long been abandoned; Scandeia being the only city which was called by Pausanias Cythera; and its former name, Scandeia, had been transferred to the harbour."

STATISTICAL.—Jan. 21.—Lieut.-Col. Sykes, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Maclaren read a paper on the 'Origin and Spread of the Cholera in the Eighth District of Plympton St. Mary, Devon.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 22.—W. Cubitt, Esq., President, in the chair.—The paper read was, 'On the Periodical Alternations and Progressive Permanent Depression of the Chalk Water Level under London,' by the Rev. J. C. Clutterbuck.—The author began by defining the chalk water level to be, "the height to which the water rises at any point or continuous series of points in the chalk, or from the chalk in perforations, through the London and plastic clays, above the chalk." The term "Artesiod" was used to describe those wells sunk through the London and plastic clays, in which the water rose from the chalk, or the sands of the plastic clay formation, above the level of those strata, though it might not rise to, or overflow the surface of the ground. Reference was made to papers read before the Institution in 1842 and 1843, in which it was shown that the chalk water level was described by an inclined line drawn from the highest level at which the water accumulated in the chalk, to the lowest proximate vent, or outfall: a general rule which was found to hold good, not only where the water was found by sinking into a permeable stratum, but where, as in the London basin, the water rose from a permeable stratum, through perforations in any impermeable stratum above it. The example treated of in the paper was described by a line inclining at an average of about 13 feet in a mile, from the outcrop of the London and plastic clays, to mean tide level in the Thames, below London Bridge. The height to which water rose in the Paris basin, from the lower greensand, was adduced in confirmation of that rule. Before the Artesian well at Grenelle was bored, M. Arago calculated that the water would rise above the level of the soil at Paris, as it rose above that level at Elbeuf, near Rouen. The height at which the water was found in the lower greensand near Troyes being 100 metres above Paris, and 131 metres above the sea, the author found that a line drawn from that point to the level of the sea at Havre (where the greensand cropped out) passed over Paris and Elbeuf at the elevation to which the water actually rose in both places. A calculation based on the same principle (taking the level of the water in the lower greensand, at Leighton Buzzard, at 280 feet above the sea) showed, that if the chalk and gault were bored through in London, the water from the greensand would rise 150 feet above Trinity high-water mark. Passing from the natural to the actual condition of the chalk water level, under London, there was a general permanent depression of from 50 feet to 60 feet below Trinity high-water mark. Measurements of a well in London in which the level was seldom disturbed, showed periodical alternations, coincident with the exhaustion and replenishment of the chalk stratum by natural causes, to the amount of 4 feet 6 inches, and a permanent depression of 1 foot 6 inches per annum, or 12 feet in eight years. Again, referring to former calculations, it was shown that the margin of this depression was extending in a greater ratio towards the north than to the south or south-east. Since 1843, the level was permanently depressed at Hampstead Road, 10 feet; Camden Town, 19 feet; Kilburn, 20 feet; and Cricklewood, 10 feet. The limit of the depression being in 1843 between the latter places. Allusion was then made to the influx of water at the point where the Thames passed over the outcrop of the sands of the plastic clay formation, and the chalk, as a point to be determined by geological inquiry, and connected with observations as to the action of the tides on the level, and the chemical quality of the water, in that neighbourhood. The general conclusion drawn from all these facts was, that the rapidity of exhaustion from Artesian wells under London greatly exceeded the rapidity of supply; that the amount of defalcation was marked, and could be measured by the extension of a progressive permanent depression, proving that the supply of water from the chalk stratum became each year more precarious, and less to be depended on, even should there be no addition to the Artesiod wells in and around the metropolis.

In the discussion which ensued, it was shown, that only such a supply of water percolated annually through the chalk stratum as could be accounted for by the discharge from the rivers of the upper district. The results yielded by Dalton's Rain Gauge, as used by Mr. John Dickinson, were adduced in proof of this position. The chemical analysis of the water

from wells sunk into the chalk showed the probability of an influx of the tidal water of the Thames, to replenish the vacuum caused by the extent of pumping from the London wells. On the other hand, it was contended, that from the great extent of surface whence the chalk derived its supply, there might be such a surplus store of water as would warrant any amount of pumping for the domestic supply of the metropolis.

The discussion was announced to be continued at the meeting of Tuesday, January 29th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Jan. 18.—W. Pole, Esq., V.P., Treas., in the chair.—Mr. Grove, V.P., 'On some recent Researches of Foreign Philosophers.' Mr. Grove first noticed the experiments of M. Regnault. He gave a short summary of the progress of knowledge respecting the effect of respiration on air from the days of Boyle to the investigations of Messrs. Allen and Pepys, and mentioned that the last-named philosophers tended to show that the amount of carbonic acid gas exhaled from the lungs was an exact equivalent to the amount of oxygen inhaled from the atmosphere; but in all experiments hitherto made the air inspired was, after the first inhalation, more or less deteriorated. The arrangements of M. Regnault have effected a uniformity not only of the quality, but also of the temperature and pressure of the atmosphere respired by the animal under experiment. A diagram of M. Regnault's apparatus, and the actual eudiometer employed by him to test the exhaled gases, were exhibited. The following may be taken as the most important results of many experiments:—1. Warm-blooded animals exhale nitrogen in proportion from $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of the oxygen consumed by them in respiration. 2. Animals fed on farinaceous food exhale carbonic acid equivalent to the oxygen inspired, while animals fed on animal food absorb oxygen sometimes equal to 4 parts in 10 of that inspired. 3. Animals fed on leguminous food absorb a quantity intermediate between that occasioned by a flesh and a cereal diet. 4. The consumption of oxygen by animals varies directly with the surface and inversely with the bulk of their bodies, e.g., a sparrow consumes ten times more oxygen in a given time than a common domestic fowl; this arises probably from the cooling effect of the greater surface. 5. Hibernating animals when asleep in some cases assimilate the oxygen and nitrogen of the atmosphere which they inhale, and increase in weight by respiration alone. 6. Experiments had been tried on a dilution of oxygen with other gases. Mr. Grove showed a cage containing two small birds placed under a large bell glass containing an atmosphere of hydrogen and oxygen mixed in the proportions that constitute water. The carbonic acid formed by the respiration of the birds was absorbed by lime-water, and fresh supplies of oxygen and hydrogen were given by the decomposition of water by a voltaic battery. No inconvenience appeared to be experienced by the animals in consequence of the novel atmosphere in which they were placed, and in which they continued during the period of the discourse. Mr. Grove, however, remarked that (whatever might be the value of experiments tried with hydrogen, &c., as proving that they might be temporarily substituted for nitrogen in the atmosphere as diluents of oxygen), inasmuch as Nature did nothing in vain, there must be some yet undiscovered final cause in the selection of nitrogen for this purpose. In concluding this part of his subject, Mr. Grove mentioned, as a proof of the delicacy of M. Regnault's apparatus, that he was able to count the pulsations of the animal submitted to experiment by the number of bubbles of oxygen gas supplied to it by the apparatus. Mr. Grove also took occasion to suggest that all these experiments, as well as the more striking effects of chloroform and ether, pointed strongly to the probable efficiency of gases inhaled by the lungs as therapeutic agents. The subject had received much less consideration than its importance deserved. Small admixtures of certain gases with the ordinary atmosphere were known to produce peculiar effects on the animal economy, and such admixture he thought might be found in certain cases beneficial. Thus, as Nature gives us more carbonic acid gas in the atmosphere by night than by day, and as hibernating animals will in their dormant state live in an atmo-

sphere containing much more carbonic acid than they could bear in their wakened state, Nature seems to point out to us that the admixture of certain portions of carbonic acid with the air of invalids' rooms might be useful as a soporific agent and more natural and effective than those taken by the stomach. Other applications of the principle might be discovered by experiment.—Mr. Grove then spoke of a memoir on physiological electricity by Signor Matteucci, of Pisa, recently read at the Royal Society. Signor Matteucci believes that he has been able to trace a connexion between the direction of the electrical current and the influence of that current as affecting motion or sensation. Thus, for example, when the current passes from the anode to the cathode of the battery through the muscles of the animal, motion only is caused, and sensation only when the current is sent in the opposite direction. In illustration of these facts, Mr. Grove mentioned that, at the commencement of his own researches, he had been requested by a friend, whose lower extremities were paralyzed, to try the effect of electricity in restoring the voluntary motion that was lost; that, in compliance with this request, he subjected the leg and thigh to such currents as in a normal state of the body would have occasioned an involuntary contraction of the limbs without sensation, but that in the case of this gentleman, no movement of the limbs resulted, but violent pain was produced.—The last subject noticed by Mr. Grove was the experiments of M. Pasteur on the relation of crystalline forms to polarization of light. M. Pasteur in examining the salts of crystallized paratartronic acid had noticed two sets of oppositely hemihedral crystals, and on making separate solutions of these crystals he found that the solution of one class rotated the plane of polarization to the right, while the other class rotated it to the left; a mixture in proper proportion of the two solutions produced no effect on the plane of polarization. What makes this the more curious is, that the chemical constitution of the three solutions is identical. (Vide 'Annales de Chimie,' 3e série, 1848, t. xxiv. p. 442.)

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—Our attention has been called by a contemporary journalist to an error in our description of Fizeau's experiment on the velocity of light [*ante*, p. 23]. We stated that the first obscuration was produced by the passing before the eye of 12.6 of the teeth of the wheel:—we should have said by 12.6 revolutions of the wheel itself. The obscure character of the notices in the French journals misled us.

MERTINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Geographical, half-past 8.—Notes on Japan.—On Sinkang, by Dr. Gutzlaff.
— Entomological, 8.—Anniversary.
Tues. Civil Engineers, 8.
Wed. Society of Arts, 8.
THURS. Royal, half-past 8.
— Antiquaries, 8.
FRI. Royal Institution, half-past 8.—Prof. Faraday 'On the Electricity of the Air.'
— Botanical, 8.
SAT. Asiatic, 8.

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—Mr. William Westall, the landscape painter, died on the 22nd inst. in the 69th year of his age. Though little celebrated for his oil pictures, he had a pleasant feeling for landscape nature (lake scenery more especially). He represented, however, what he saw before him with the fidelity of an artist not much alive to the poetry of his art. He worked largely for booksellers; and many volumes for which he supplied matter-of-fact illustrations, from his own drawings as well as from the slight sketches of artists and amateurs, evince his skill and the taste and readiness with which he worked. Mr. Westall was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1813—and was the senior Associate at the time of his death.

Letters from Nimroud of November the 25th inform us of the progress of Dr. Layard's researches. A wall of admirably united large square blocks of limestone, without cement, has been discovered in the pyramid at Nimroud,—but as yet it has been impossible to ascertain what is behind it. It may probably be a chamber or tomb; or it may be only one side of a square mass supporting the pyramid of unbaked

bricks. What if it should turn out to be the true *busta Nini*? In the entrance of a gateway to the quadrangle opposite Mosul, Dr. Layard has reached a pair of enormous winged figures which appear to be entire, but have been cracked and injured by fire. A plan of this entrance would be interesting as illustrative of the architecture of the city. At Kouyunjik a pair of gigantic bulls back to back, separated by an enormous figure strangling a lion, like that at Paris, but still larger, have been discovered; but the upper parts of all have been destroyed. On the bulls are interesting inscriptions.—We are glad to hear that the colossal lions at Nimroud were nearly ready for removal. It was expected that they would be on their road to England early in December.—Dr. Layard has a party of men excavating at Baasickhah and in a mound near Khorsabad.

We have seen a series of models in card, elementary and progressive, designed to assist pupils in drawing in the useful practice of copying direct from nature. These models are so arranged as to be likely to inculcate themselves into the drawing-room as well as into the school-room. By a principle of *folding* applied to them, the entire set is made to occupy little more than a single ordinary model of wood or plaster; and they deal with familiar objects (not simply geometrical forms),—and have the further advantage over the models ordinarily in use of having the natural colours of the objects progressively introduced into the series. The set is inclosed in a handsome mahogany box; which by means of iron rods is erected into a stand on which the models may severally be set up for copying from.

In Paris, the Academy of the Fine Arts has filled up the vacancy in its body occasioned by the death of M. Granet, by the election of M. Robert Fleury.

The French journals are making loud lamentation over the death of M. Dominique Papety,—an artist whose archaeological researches in Greece and whose drawings brought from thence bore a high renown and value among our neighbours. M. Papety was born at Marseilles in 1815. At the age of twenty his picture of 'Moses striking the Rock' won for him the grand prize of Rome. M. Papety left behind him a very large collection of sketches, drawings and fac-similes, &c.; which, by this time, have been dispersed by auction among the connoisseurs and collectors.

The death of General Despinoy has recently brought into the market one of the two only authentic portraits of Molière known to exist. It was bought by Dr. Gendrin—after being, it is said, eagerly contended for by English dealers and amateurs: though we confess the sum—1740 francs (under 70*l*.)—scarcely represents a struggle so severe, with English capitalists in the field, as the French papers assert. The picture in question is well known by repeated engravings. It is the work of Noël Coypel,—and formed part of the celebrated collection of M. Denon, Director of the Museums under the Restoration. At his death it was withdrawn from the sale of the collection by his heirs,—and afterwards ceded directly to General Despinoy, the possessor of a curious gallery of historical pictures.

According to the Berlin papers, a prize of a singular kind has been proposed by the Prussian Minister of Public Instruction.—Considering, he says, that the money value of works of Art is essentially arbitrary,—that no certain basis exists on which to erect a scale of prices for them, even approximately,—he suggests a competition for the Essay which shall render the best account, on trustworthy authorities, of the sums which the most celebrated artists in all countries, ancient and modern, and in all categories of the arts of design, have obtained for their several works. The prices are to be given in present money of Prussia; and in reducing ancient or foreign coins to this common circulation, regard is to be had not merely to a comparison of the intrinsic and material values of the respective figures, but also to the comparative values of money at the different periods thus brought together. The competing works are to be sent in before the close of the present year—a commission jury is to be appointed *ad hoc*,—and the Government will publish the Prize Essay on its own account, unless the author shall desire to reserve the copyright.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

BLAGROVE'S CONCERT ROOMS, 71, Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square.—MR. ARTHUR WALLBRIDGE LUNN, (Author of 'Torrington Hall,' 'The Council of Four,' &c.) will give a LITERARY AND MUSICAL EVENING at the above Rooms, on TUESDAY, January 26th, 1859, commencing at Eight o'clock and terminating at Ten. The whole written (expressly for the occasion) by Arthur Wallbridge Lunn. The Music composed (also expressly for the occasion) by Henry C. Lunn and John Ashmore. Vocalist—Miss Thornton. Accompanist at the Piano-forte—Mr. Henry C. Lunn. Admission, 2s.; no reserved seats.—Tickets to be procured of B. Addison & Co., Music-Sellers, 40, Mortimer Street, and of C. Scofield, Piano-forte Manufacturer, 70, Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square (next door to Blagrove's Concert Rooms).

CHAMBER CONCERTS.—HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS.—BERNHARD MOLIQUE begs respectfully to announce that his Three Concerts of Chamber Music will take place on Wednesday, the 28th and 29th of March, and 3rd of April next, to commence at Eight o'clock.—Subscription to the three Concerts, or Family Ticket for three persons for each Concert, 12s.; Single tickets, 4s. 6d.—Subscriptions taken by Messrs. Cramer & Co. 20, Regent Street, Ewer & Co. Newgate Street, and B. Molique, 8, Houghton Place, Amphil Square.

MARYLEBONE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, Edwards Street, Portman Square.—MENDELSSOHN'S POSTHUMOUS QUARTETT MUSIC, Op. 81, will be performed at the SECOND QUARTETT CONCERT, on Tuesday next, January 26th.—Performers—Mr. Edward W. Thomas, N. Mori Welles, and Guest, Pianoforte, Miss Kate Loder. To commence at Eight o'clock.—Places, 2s. and 4s.—The Third Concert will take place on Tuesday, February 8th.

MADAME GRASSINI.

Madame Grassini is announced as having died at Milan, since the year came in, at the advanced age of threescore and seventeen years. To many the notification of her death will be a surprise; not as having happened so soon, but as an event which it might have been fancied had happened some score of years earlier,—so entire is the disappearance of a stage-favourite from the public eye after the curtain has for the last time fallen on her closing tirade or *bravura*! But Madame Grassini's celebrity carries us back to an unusually long distance; as the reader will admit when we remind him that she was the Italian *prima donna* who in England filled the space betwixt Banti and Catalani. Madame Grassini was a native of Varese in Lombardy,—was educated at Milan, in the grand vocal school of Marchesi and Crescentini,—made her *début* at *La Scala* during the Carnival of 1794,—and became early distinguished alike for her great personal beauty and for her peculiar musical gifts. Her performance at a concert given after the battle of Marengo is said to have attracted the attention of Napoleon Bonaparte, who invited her to Paris. There for awhile she quenched it in great private state and public popularity. In 1802, Madame Grassini appeared in London; and the circumstances of her appearance are pleasantly, and (so far as we can ascertain) distinctively, touched by Lord Mount Edgumbe in his 'Musical Reminiscences.'—

"The event to which I allude," says he, "was the arrival of Grassini, who was engaged to sing alternately with Mrs. Billington. This very handsome woman was in everything the direct contrary of her rival. With a beautiful form, and a grace peculiarly her own, she was an excellent actress, and her style of singing was exclusively the *cantabile*, which became heavy *à la lougue*, and bordered a little on the monotonous: for her voice, which it was said had been a high *soprano*, was by some accident reduced to a confined *contralto*. She had entirely lost all its upper tones, and possessed little more than one octave of good natural notes; if she attempted to go higher she produced only a shriek, quite unnatural and almost painful to the ear. Her first appearance was in 'La Vergine del Sole,' an opera of Mayer's, well suited to her peculiar talents; but her success was not very decisive as a singer, though her acting and her beauty could not fail of exciting high admiration. So equivocal was her reception, that when her benefit was to take place she did not dare encounter it alone, but called in Mrs. Billington to her aid; and she, ever willing to oblige, consented to appear with her. The opera composed for the occasion, by Winter, was 'Il Ratto di Proserpina,' in which Mrs. Billington, for her part, and Madame Grassini, *Proserpina*. And now the tide of favour suddenly turned: the performance of the latter carried all the applause, and her graceful figure, her fine expression of face, together with the sweet manner in which she sang several easy simple airs, stamped her at once the reigning favourite. Her deep tones were undoubtedly finer, and had a particularly good effect when joined with the brilliant voice of Mrs. Billington; but though, from its great success, this opera was frequently repeated, they never sang together in any other character, having attained the summit of the ladder, kicked down the steps by which she had risen, and henceforth stood alone. * * Grassini (subsequently) performed in 'Gli Orazi e Curiazi,' the *chef-d'œuvre* of Cimarosa (her acting in the last scene being most excellent), 'Zaira,' by Winter, 'La Morte di Cleopatra,' by Napoléon, and the 'Camilla' of Paer. * * Grassini, (continues the same authority in a later chapter) returned in 1814; but she was no longer what she had been. Her beauty, indeed, was little diminished; but her acting was more languid and ineffective,—at least it appeared so, after the more energetic and animated manner of her predecessor (Catalani). Her voice, too, was changed: she had endeavoured to regain its upper part; but in so doing, she had lost the lower, and instead of a mellow *contralto*, it was become a hoarse *soprano*. Still, however, she displayed

much of her former grace and style, particularly in her favourite part of *Orazia*, and in a new opera of 'Didone,' by Paer. But on the whole, her performance did not satisfy the public, and after one season she departed unregretted. Little need be added to the above, save that Madame Grassini retired from public life about the year 1817,—and that she was the aunt of the sisters Gisi and of Mlle. Carlotta, the second-best of dancing danseuses.

DRURY LANE.—Mr. Sheridan Knowles is just now in the ascendant. His play of 'The Hunchback' has been of late frequently repeated; and was, for the first time under Mr. Anderson's management, on Monday performed here, with Miss Vandenhoff as *Julia* and her father as *Master Walter*. The part of the latter was sustained with effective elocution; and in the last scene especially the situation was produced with touching power. The daughter's character was well conceived by the actress, and pleasingly rendered; but her want of recent practice leaves something to future development. Mrs. Nisbett was the *Helen*; and performed it with fulness, buoyancy, and the geniality of feeling which distinguishes this actress. The part of *Sir Thomas Clifford* was confided to Mr. C. Fisher, Mr. Anderson being prevented from appearing by indisposition. Mr. J. Vining was *Modus*,—and Mr. S. Artaud, *Fathom*.

STRAND.—At this house, also, one of Mr. Knowles's plays has been acted during the week,—'The Love Chase.' Mrs. Glover was the *Widow Green*. It is announced that this venerable lady will make the present her final season,—and her performances at this theatre, therefore, are to be considered as her 'farewell' ones. The spirit, freshness and vivacity which she yet throws into her assumptions are, at her age, marvellous. In the present character, all play-goers know that her acting is of great quality. Mrs. Stirling performed 'neighbour' *Constance* with animation, tact and grace,—and with somewhat of a more natural manner than usual. Mrs. Leigh Murray as *Lydia* acted with judgment, delicacy, and an excellent appreciation of her text. The rest of the play was respectably cast.

SADLER'S WELLS.—'Henry the Eighth,' to the end of the fourth act, was repeated for the first time this season last Monday:—Miss Glyn performing *Queen Katherine*. In all respects it is a great improvement on her former rendering of this majestic character. It was more subdued in its general manner,—throughout self-possessed,—and in passages of vehemence more powerful. The dying scene was very touching. It combined in a remarkable manner the signs of physical weakness with those of spiritual aspiration.

MARYLEBONE.—A melodrama entitled 'The Road of Life' has been performed nightly, during the week, at this house.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—It is at the request of the executors and surviving relatives of Dr. Mendelssohn Bartholdy, that we announce their desire to collect his letters, to serve, at a future period, as materials for an authentic memorial of the deceased. It is to be hoped that this announcement,—being formal—will preclude the publication of such letters in any other way; and will induce the many friends of Dr. Mendelssohn in England to communicate copies of the letters which they may possess to any of the members of his family:—such communications to be directed to the deceased's brother, Mr. Paul Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

That portion of St. Martin's Hall which is finished, —some two-thirds only of the great room as contemplated in the architect's plan being yet built,—will be opened, we perceive, on Monday fortnight, the 11th of February, with a miscellaneous concert,—consisting of an act of sacred and an act of secular music.

Two or three letters on the subject of the Bach Society have reached us,—to which we shall shortly give our best attention.

In our last week's enumeration of chamber concerts we made an error as to the date of Mr. E. Thomas's first Quartett *Soirée*,—which we merely announced, not reviewed. This took place on Tuesday last,—not on Tuesday week.—On Tuesday next we understand that a posthumous Quartett by Mendelssohn

will be played. If this be the complete one in *F* minor, we can accredit the composition as an attraction of the very highest and most precious musical value.

While returning for a moment to meetings so full of interest to all genuine lovers of art, we may mention with pleasure that at Mr. Willy's last *Chamber Concert*, also included in the former paragraph, a *Concerto* by Bach, played by Mr. W. S. Bennett, pleased so much as to be called for a second time. "This can be no trick," as *Benedick* hath it; but it is a truth which argues honest, sober, substantial progress in English taste for the "best and honourablest things" in Music.—Having begun this paragraph with the correction of one mistake, let us close it with the rectification of another, which reaches as far as Manchester. An error was made in specifying the cast of 'St. Paul' as there given: the leading bass part of which was sung not by Mr. Phillips, but by Mr. Joseph Robinson of Dublin.

We perceive with pleasure that among the rapidly increasing number of chamber concerts which attest our sound musical progress, Herr Molique is about to give three at the Hanover Square Rooms. It is natural to expect that a welcome individuality will be given to these by the performance of his own compositions.

Our contemporaries, we observe, in announcing a new Oratorio by M. Félicien David as forthcoming at Paris, also debit M. Meyerbeer with some uneasiness on the occasion,—since they state that the subject of M. David's sacred work had been selected by the *Maestro* for an opera, and that the latter has expressed discontent at the idea of being forestalled. We are glad to learn that M. Meyerbeer is about to undertake more new compositions for the stage;—aware, meanwhile, to our comfort, that 'L'Africaine' lies finished in his portfolio, though of the date of its production not a word has as yet been said. Aware, also, that M. Meyerbeer likes to mould what is strange and difficult into dramatic forms, and that he is, *qua* innovator and enlarger of boundaries, a great benefactor to Opera, we are still a little incredulous with regard to his manifested vexation,—which we rather imagine to have been first chronicled by a contemporary whose thousand and one tales of what happens [?] in Paris are as ingenious and exhaustless as if *Scheherazade* had contrived them.—Something more to the purpose, we believe, we may offer to our readers,—which is the chance of a new musical composer of the highest quality. A witness better to be relied upon than the oriental Lady whose business it was to keep her head on her shoulders by the beguiling exercise of her talents for fiction, and on whose musical science and foresight we have the highest reliance, assures us that such a treasure may possibly be ere long "unearthed" in the French metropolis. We are told of a young man of genius, who has been silently working for years in retirement, undreamed of by the *feuilletonists* or by those who buy paragraphs,—and whom his good stars have at last cast into the hands of friends able and willing to present to the world that which, we are assured, is very extraordinary. We may have more precise details to lay before the reader shortly; meanwhile, the promise is no "myth," but a reality qualified to quicken expectation in all who love to see new pleasures and gifts appearing in a world the forlorn and bereaved state of which is calculated to engender anxious misgivings.

It is said that Mlle. Lind has signed an engagement to visit America in September, on terms of unprecedented magnificence. Thirty thousand pounds is the sum named as about to be placed in the hands of a London banker before her departure. Her expenses are all to be paid,—and her contingent gains on the other side of the Atlantic are estimated at as much as the sum deposited. It is added, that she is to sing only in concerts and oratorios,—and that she has expressly provided for the liberty of singing as often for charities as she shall choose. These are newspaper reports,—and, as such, open to revision and correction. It is certain, we believe, that Mr. Benedict proposes to go with her as her conductor and accompanist.—A true journal of this Progress would be as curious a book as could well be written.

We were not long since speaking of the paucity of musical collectors as compared with the number of those who gather books or pictures. The fact

may in part be accounted for by the spread of publication during late years; yet as this does not preclude value for the original MSS. of a composer, we must seek elsewhere the solution of what would otherwise appear strange. There are many valuable unpublished MSS. of Cherubini which we should be glad to know were in safe ward; and within a day or two has been placed in our hands a list of undoubted MSS. by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, now in Berlin, the property of a deceased amateur, and which are understood to be "in the market." This list runs as follows:—By Haydn,—a *Concertante* for violin and orchestra in score, and the scores of *Sinfonias* in *a*, in *a*, in *e*, and in *d*. By Mozart,—the score of 'Il Ratto del Seraglio.' By Beethoven,—the two *finales* to 'Fidelio' in MS., the scores of the *Sinfonia* in *a*, those of six Quartetts, a book of sketches for 'Fidelio,' the Septuor, the overture to 'Fidelio,' notes and sketches, and airs from the 'Urania' of Tiedje.

Every now and then still comes an outbreak of feeling from Germany which tells that even in that harassed world poetry is not dead. There is, or is to be, a new hotel in Vienna—on the site of Mozart's house—called the *Hôtel Mozart*. In the midst of the court yard, "hard by a fountain," a marble statue of the composer is to be placed,—and around this, busts of Haydn, Gluck, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Rossini, and Meyerbeer.

The earliest of the forthcoming dramatic novelties—

Like those blind motions of the Spring
Which show the year has turned—
will be Mr. Oxenford's classical tragedy with the taking title of 'Ariadne,' which will be performed on Monday next at the Olympic Theatre.

MISCELLANEA

Cupid Crying.—I shall be obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, can tell me who was the author of the epigram, or inscription, of which I subjoin the English translation. I am sure I have seen the Latin; but I do not know whose it was, or where to find it. I think it belongs to one of the Italian writers of the fifteenth or sixteenth century.—

Cupid Crying.

Why is Cupid crying so?—
Because his jealous mother beat him.—
What for?—For giving up his bow
To Cælia, who contrived to cheat him.
The child! I could not have believed
He'd give his weapons to another.—
He would not,—but he was deceived;
She smiled,—he thought it was his mother.

Notes and Queries.

[We give the above because of the extreme elegance of the epigram.]

Gold in Russia.—The value of the productions extracted from the gold mines of the Oural (Russia) for the first half year in 1849, amounts to 4,300,000 *f.* as regards the Government mines, and 10,190,000 *f.* on private account; total 14,490,000 *f.*—which furnishes in comparison with the second half-year of 1848 an increase of upwards of 4,500,000 *f.*, arising almost entirely from private enterprise. A similar and proportionally larger difference appears with reference to the platina mines; the quantity extracted being, for the last ten months in 1848, 23 kilogrammes, and for the first half-year of 1849, 66 kil., worth about 66,000 *f.*—*Brussels Herald.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. R. E.—C. De M.—H. W.—D. W.—O micron.—W. R. W.—received.

B. C.—If this correspondent had given her name we might perhaps have answered her inquiry privately. But we cannot suffer ourselves to be entrapped into an advertisement,—as is possible under the form of answer proposed.

A. L. X.—We cannot insert the communication of this correspondent. His experiment will not give the result supposed.

H. E. S.—The hexameters of this correspondent are perhaps as good as our language permits, so far as an approach to quantity is concerned. But in order to this—which is not easy—the words have been thrown out of their true accented pronunciation. The objection clearly is, that with such a language as ours we can make but poor and harsh lines as scanned by the rules of quantity,—while to scan them so, we must sin against our laws of accent in a way that the Latin or Greek could not require the speaker to do. This a moment's comparison of the respective languages will show.

Errata.—In Mr. Ollier's poem, 'The Advent of Bacchus,' which appeared in our columns last week, at P. 73, col. 1, l. 28, for "poison" read *poison*—p. 75, col. 2, l. 3, for "Schoepfin" read *Schoepfin*—col. 3, l. 24, for "Kivety" read *Kivety*.

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The FEBRUARY number of this Magazine will exhibit several alterations in the arrangement and character of its contents. They have been adopted in order to make it, more than ever, a worthy organ and representative of that most valuable and peculiarly interesting branch of literature which has for its object the instruction of mankind by the study and the perpetuation of what is now doing, or whatever has been done in times past, which is worthy of being kept in remembrance. Arrangements have been made to secure, in future, the contributions of gentlemen most competent to write upon their respective subjects of study; and the February Magazine will contain, among others, the following articles:—Sir Philip Sidney and American Discoveries, by J. Payne Collier, Esq.; Campbell's Lives of the Chief Justices of the State of America, by C. Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A.; Temple of the Dea Sequana, by C. Roach Smith, Esq., F.S.A.; Present State of Architecture: Freeman and Poulton Document relating to Dr. Wm. Harvey, by P. Cunningham, Esq.; Windsor Castle in the Reign of Elizabeth, by J. G. Nichols, Esq.; (With a Plate); Deductions from the History of Words, by Thomas Wright, Esq., F.S.A.; Hannu's Life of Dr. Thos. Chalmers.—Christian Iconography and Legendary Art, by J. G. Waller, Esq.; Merime's History of Pedro the Cruel—History of the Erection of Howard's Statue in 1795, by J. B. Nichols, Esq.;—Women's Preliminary Antiquities of Denmark. (With cuts).—The intended Exhibition of Ancient and Medieval Art. Obituaries: including Memoirs of the Earl of Carnarvon, Bishop Coleridge, Adm. Lord Colville, Adm. Sir F. Collier, Sir Charles Forbes, Bart., Sir L. M. Brunel, Esq., Doubleday, Esq., Denis C. Molyneux, Esq., Lieut. Waghorn, Ebenezer Elliott, John Duncan, and many others.

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